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# THE

# RITUAL

— OF THE —

# Independent Order of Foresters

FOR

# SUBORDINATE COURTS.

**This Ritual supersedes all former editions and becomes the only authorized Official Ritual of the Order.**

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Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, by ORONHYATEKHA, Supreme Chief Ranger, at the Department of Agriculture.

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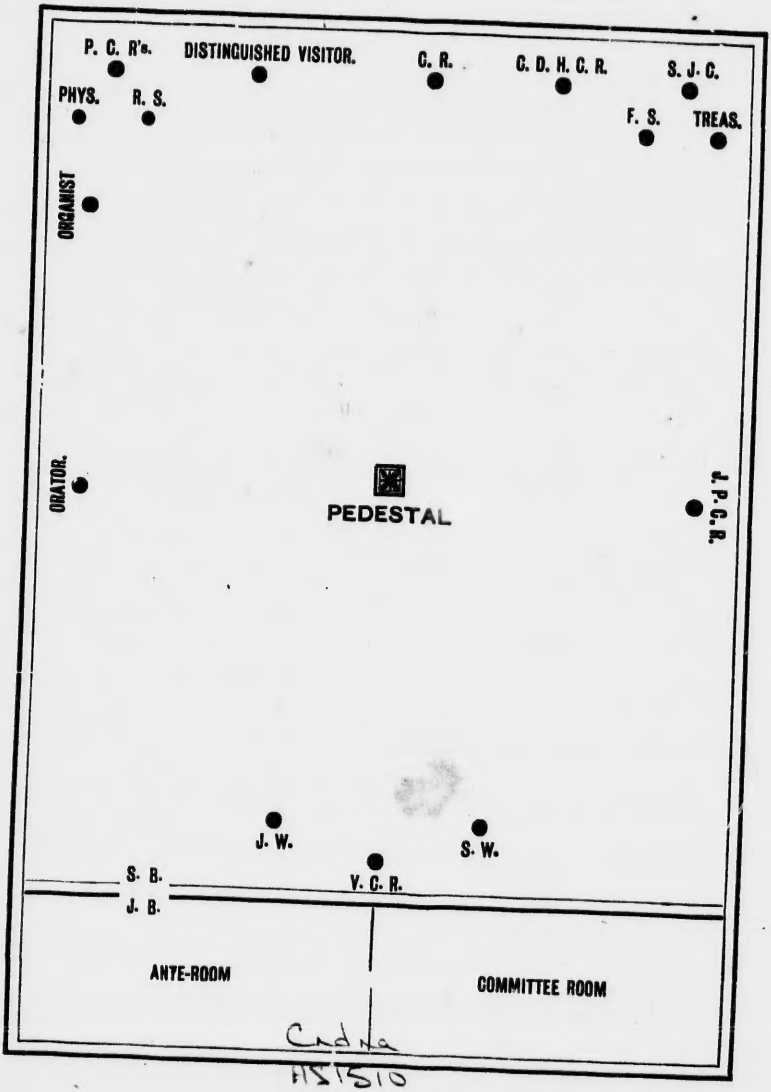
**Toronto, Ont.:**

HUNTER, ROSE CO., LIMITED, PRINTERS,

1899.

# DIAGRAM OF COURT ROOM.

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# GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

PRESIDING OFFICER.—In the absence of the C.R., the Junior P.C.R. shall preside; if the Junior P.C.R. be absent, then the P.C.R. present who was most recently the C.R. shall preside; if there be no P.C.R. present who has occupied the C.R.'s chair, the Senior Honorary P.C.R., as defined in Section 152 of the Constitution and Laws of the Order, shall preside; if no P.C.R. be present, then the V.C.R. shall preside; and if the V.C.R. be absent, the officer of the Court who is next highest in rank shall preside. If no officer of the Court be present, then any member may call the Court to order, and a Chief Ranger *pro tem.* be chosen, who shall preside until an officer of the Court arrives. Through courtesy to a distinguished visitor of rank, the Presiding Officer may invite him to preside.

ABSENT OFFICERS.—In the case of officers being absent, the Presiding Officer shall fill the chairs by *pro tem.* appointments from the members of the Court or visiting members present. Whenever a regular officer arrives he shall take his chair.

VOTING.—The Presiding Officer shall not be entitled to vote when the vote is by sign vote or by yea and nay vote, but shall give the casting vote on such occasions in the event of a tie. When the vote is by written ballot or ball ballot the Presiding Officer shall cast his ballot the same as the other members, and shall not be entitled to give the casting vote in the event of a tie. A visitor, though acting as C.R., has no vote, and in case of a tie shall declare the motion lost because it has not received the requisite majority of votes.

BALLOTING FOR CANDIDATES.—When a candidate is to be balloted for, the C.R. will instruct the S.W. to prepare the ballot-box. He will then announce to the Court that, "we are about to ballot on the application of Mr.——for membership: white balls elect, black balls reject." The S.W. will then present

the ballot-box to the V.C.R., who will inspect it to see that there are no balls in the compartment into which the ballots are to be cast; it will then be presented to the C.R., who will also inspect it, and closing the box, will cast his ballot; the S.W. will then place the ballot-box on the pedestal, cast his ballot and return to his station. The C.R. will then direct the members to vote, one at a time. When all have voted who wish, the C.R. will say, "Have all voted who wish? If so, I declare the ballot closed." The S.W. will then present the ballot-box to the V.C.R. for inspection, after which he will present the ballot-box to the C.R., who will also inspect it. The C.R. will then say, "V.C.R., how do you find the ballot?" And the V.C.R. will answer, "favorable," or "unfavorable," as the case may be. The C.R. will then announce to the Court the result of the ballot, saying: "I also find the ballot favorable; and declare Mr.——duly elected to membership in this Court." (or "I also find the ballot unfavorable; and declare Mr.——duly rejected.") A number of candidates can be voted for at one time, provided, however, after the vote is taken, should three or more black balls appear, the C.R. shall order a separate ballot to be taken for each candidate. Should a candidate be rejected, and the Court has reason to believe it was done to serve personal ends, it must proceed in accordance with Section 119 (6) of the Constitution and Laws of the Order.

The black disks, "●" indicate the number of raps of the Gavel to be given by the Officers for calling up, seating, or calling the Court to order.

In the Initiation Ceremony, when there is more than one candidate, the words printed in *italics* must be transposed into the PLURAL NUMBER. For instance, "*candidate*" must be changed to CANDIDATES, and "*he has*" must be changed to "THEY HAVE," etc.

# RITUAL

... OF ...

# SUBORDINATE COURTS.

## OPENING CEREMONY.

(When the hour arrives for opening the Court, the C.R. will call the Court to order by one rap of the gavel; the officers will then take their respective stations.)

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**C. R.**—The Court will please come to order. All who are not members of the Order will please retire.

(If there be any vacancies in the offices, the C.R. will make the necessary *pro tem.* appointments, as follows:)

**C. R.**—I appoint Bro.——— as———*pro tem.*, etc.

**C. R.**—The Woodwards will see that all present are worthy Foresters.

(The S.W. and J.W. will advance to the C.R. and give the S.A.P.W., and then beginning at the right and left of the Chair, examine all present, of whom they have any doubt, in the current S.A.P.W., except those on the Dais, for whom the C.R. is held responsible. After the examination, the Woodwards will report to the V.C.R., who, when satisfied that all present are worthy Foresters, will report to the C.R., as follows:)

**V. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, all present are worthy Foresters.

**C.R.**—Brethren, all present being worthy Foresters, I now declare the Court duly and legally opened for the transaction of business.

●

(The C.R. will then begin with No. 2 of the Order of Business and proceed with the same as laid down in the "Order of Business.")

# ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening ceremony.
2. Calling roll of officers.
3. Reading, correcting and confirming the minutes.
4. Propositions for membership.
5. Reports of committees on character.
6. Balloting for candidates.
7. Initiation of candidates.
8. Appointment of the Special Auditing Committee.
9. The Financial Secretary will state when and how he sent the monthly remittance to The Supreme Court for the present month.

(The R.S. will note the date given by F.S., and record whether by P. O. or Express Money Order or Bank Draft.)

(If the F.S. has not sent the report and remittance for the present month, he should be required to do so forthwith. Special attention is directed to Section 161 of the Constitution and Laws of the Order, which clearly shows that it is not necessary for the F.S. to wait for an order to send the monthly remittance to The Supreme Court, but that the order may be drawn at the next meeting of the Court after the remittance has been sent.)

10. The Recording Secretary will draw an order on the Treasurer for the amount of the present month's remittance to The Supreme Court.
11. The duplicate of the monthly report for the present month will now be filed as the property of the Court; and the Special Auditing Committee will carefully examine it, and report on its correctness.
12. The Recording Secretary will read the names of those suspended members for whom notices of reinstatement have been received from the Supreme Secretary since the last meeting, and enter the names in the minutes.
13. Intermission. (During which payments are to be made to the Financial Secretary.)

14. Has the Recording Secretary the receipt for the remittances for the present month?

(If not, and a reasonable time has elapsed since the remittance was made, the R. S. should forthwith write to the S. S., inquiring why the receipt for the monthly remittance has not been forwarded.)

15. Has the Recording Secretary any other communications?

16. Is any Brother out of employment?

17. Reception of general communications.

18. Bills or accounts.

19. Reports of standing committees.

[(*a*)Sick. (*b*)Finance. (*c*)Arbitration, if charges have been referred to it.]

20. Reports of special committees. { (*a*) Special Auditing. (*b*) Other Committees. }

21. Unfinished business.

22. General business.

23. Reports of officers.
24. Election of officers.
25. Installation of officers.

} To be called only at the time of the election and installation of officers.

26. Good and welfare.

27. Closing ceremony.

[Each monthly report and remittance should be made by the Financial Secretary before the *third* day of the month. See Section 247 for penalty for failure to remit. All reports should be written in duplicate; the duplicate should be laid before the Court at its first meeting in each month, and should be carefully examined by the Special Auditing Committee, as to its correctness, and then filed with the records as the property of the Court. See Sections 147 and 246. See Sections 147 (4) and 245 as to *how* all remittances shall be made.

It is the *business* of the officers and members *to know* that the Financial Secretary does his whole duty at the right time and in the right way, failing in which he should be removed from office at once. See Sections 112 (15) and 147 (2 and 3).

When a Court becomes suspended, as provided in Section 247, the penalty of suspension attaches to the members as well, and reinstatement of Court and members can only be effected as provided in Section 248.

Any member who fails to pay on or before the last day of the month, all assessments, dues, fees, taxes, fines and other demands of the Order, for the succeeding month, *ipso facto* stands suspended on the first day of such succeeding month. See Sections 126 (7), 243 (1) and 244. A member suspended for non-payment must apply for reinstatement on Form No. 15 and be reinstated *within ninety days* from the date of his suspension, or he will be rerated at his present age on reinstatement. See Sections 204 and 205 as to how members suspended for non-payment can be reinstated, *and they can be reinstated in no other way*. See Section 207 for the penalty attaching to a Court and the members who permit a suspended member to apply for reinstatement while ill or disabled.

An applicant for membership must not be initiated until he has been examined by the Court Physician or other duly authorized examining Physician and recommended by him to the Court, on Form No. 59, for beneficiary membership, and before the said Form No. 59 has been received by the Recording Secretary, or before his medical examination has been accepted and passed by the Medical Board, as the case may be. See Section 119 (8).

It is to the interest of each member that he procure a copy of the Constitution and Laws as amended at the last session of The Supreme Court, as every member is bound by the Constitution and Laws of the Order as revised from time to time. See Section 3 (6)].

# CLOSING CEREMONY.

**C. R.**—Brethren, assist me to close the Court.

**C. R.**—Financial Secretary, give the name of each member who has paid you since last report, and the amount paid by each; also give the name of each suspended member applying for reinstatement on Form No. 15, and the amount of arrears deposited by each.

**F. S.** (Rising)—Chief Ranger, they are as follows:

(The F.S. will here hand a signed memorandum to the R.S., containing the amounts paid to the F.S. since last report and by whom paid, after which he will state audibly to the Court the receipts in detail, naming each brother and the amounts paid; the R.S. will check from the memorandum, handed to him by the F.S., and afterwards enter the same in the minutes. It is the duty of both the C.D. and the C.R. to see that the R.S. enters the names and amounts in the minutes.)

**C. R.**—The Recording Secretary will see that the proper entries are made in the Records, of the names and amounts as just given by the Financial Secretary.

Brother Financial Secretary, you will now hand over to the Treasurer the whole amount you have received since the time he gave his last receipt in your Cash Book, and he will receipt for the same in your Cash Book.

● ● ●

**C. R.**—Brethren, the business of the Court having been concluded, I have to thank you for your presence and attention this evening, and to impress upon your minds the importance of being present upon all occasions of our assembling, not only to watch over the interests of the Order, but to take part in the business of the Court. I trust you will all be able to be present at our next meeting.

I now declare the Court duly and legally closed.

●

# INITIATION CEREMONY.

C. R.—Brother Senior Woodward, you will retire to the ante-room and ascertain if there be any Candidates waiting to be initiated; and, if so, report their names in full to the Court.

(The S. W. will then retire, and if there be any candidates, he will, upon returning, report their names in full to the Court.)

C. R.—Brother Recording Secretary, *has the Candidate* been duly proposed and regularly elected for membership in our Order?

(As soon as the C.R. addresses the R.S., the latter will rise in his place and remain standing till he has answered the questions.)

R. S.—*He has,* Chief Ranger.

C. R.—*Has he* been duly examined by the Court Physician and recommended by him to the Court, on Form No. 59, for beneficiary membership, and have you received that form, or *has he* been accepted by the Medical Board, and *has he* complied with all the requirements of the Constitution and Laws, Rules and Usages of the Order?

(State whether recommended on Form No. 59, or accepted by the Medical Board.)

R. S.—*He has,* Chief Ranger.

(If the Candidate has not been examined by the Court Physician or other duly authorized examining Physician and recommended by him to the Court on Form No. 59 for beneficiary membership and that Form has been received by the R.S., or his medical examination has been accepted and passed by the Medical Board, the C.R. must postpone the initiation. The Chief Ranger, or any officer or member acting as Chief Ranger, who administers the Obligation to a Candidate before he has been examined by the Court Physician or other duly authorized examining Physician and recommended by him to the Court, on Form No. 59, for beneficiary membership, and before the said Form No. 59 has been received by the Recording Secretary, or before his medical examination has been accepted and passed by the Medical Board, as the case may be, shall *ipso facto* stand suspended from the Order.)

C. R.—Thank you, Brother Recording Secretary. If any brother has any valid objection to the admission of *Mr.*———— into this Court, let him now declare it.

(If an objection be made by any member, the Court must decide at once, without debate, by a majority vote, whether it is valid or not. If the objection be held valid, then the Initiation must be postponed, and the objection duly considered at the same or at the next meeting. If the objection be held not valid, or if no objection be offered, the Initiation will be immediately proceeded with.)

**C. R.**—The Past Chief Ranger and the Financial Secretary will retire to the ante-room and see that all the conditions required by the Constitution and Laws, Rules and Usages of the Order are duly complied with by the *Candidate.*

(The P.C.R. will see that the candidate answers the following questions:)

**P. C. R.**—Mr. ———, it is my duty to ask you certain preliminary questions, but before doing so I assure you that there is nothing in the Obligation of the Independent Order of Foresters or in its Constitution and Laws which in any way interferes with the religious, political or social rights or duties of its members. Religion we leave to you and your church. Political or Religious discussions are never allowed to enter our Court rooms. Our aim is simply to afford each other mutual aid and relief, as well as protection for our loved ones. Having made these explanations, I request you to answer the following questions:

(1) **P. C. R.**—What is your occupation? You will please describe it fully.

**Candidate**— ——— (The Candidate must give full particulars, stating the exact nature of employment or occupation.)

**P. C. R.**—I have to inform you that this occupation will place you in the ——— Class; (or, I have to inform you that this occupation is proscribed by our Order, and you cannot be admitted.)

(Persons engaged in the occupations described in Section 134 (1) of the Constitution and Laws of the Order, and persons engaged in the manufac-

ture or sale of intoxicating liquors CANNOT be admitted to membership in the Order.)

(2) **P. C. R.**—Are you at the present time under medical treatment of any kind, or taking medicine for any disease or ailment?

**Candidate.**—I am not.

(3) **P. C. R.**—Are you in good, sound mental and physical health?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(4) **P. C. R.**—Do you believe in the existence of Almighty God?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(5) **P. C. R.**—Do you agree to keep inviolate any private work of the Order which may be communicated to you, and that you will be governed and bound by the Constitution and Laws, Rituals, Rules and Usages of the Independent Order of Foresters?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(6) **P. C. R.**—Do you agree, in the event of your ceasing at any time to be a member of the Order, "in good standing," as defined in the Constitution and Laws of the Order, that all your right, title or claim to, or interest in, any property, funds, privileges or benefits of this Court, or of The Supreme Court, shall thereby terminate and become absolutely null and void?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(7) **P. C. R.**—Are you still willing to become a member of the Order upon the aforementioned terms

and conditions, and upon the conditions contained in the Application for Membership and the Medical Examination Paper of the Order?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(The F. S. will then collect the balance, if any, of the Initiation and other Fees; after which the two officers return to the Court Room and report:)

**P.C.R.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate has* answered satisfactorily all the questions. Mr. —— gives his occupation as ——, and I informed him that he would be rated in the —— Class; (or Mr. —— gives his occupation as ——, and I informed him that that occupation is proscribed and he cannot be admitted to membership in the Order.)

(The occupation of each Candidate, if more than one, must be reported, and the Class named in which each will be rated, or, if the occupation is proscribed it must be so reported to the Court, and entered in the minutes by the R.S.)

**F. S.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate has* paid the required fees.

**C. R.**—Thank you, brothers. The Senior and Junior Woodwards will now repair to the ante-room, and introduce the *Candidate* for Initiation.

Brother Senior Beadle, you will admit the Woodwards and the *Candidate* when the proper alarm is given.

(The Woodwards retire, and when ready the S.W. will give three loud knocks at the inner door.)

**S. W.**—● ● ●

(The S.B. will then open wide the door, and the Woodwards will conduct the Candidate directly to the Pedestal.)

**S. W.**—Chief Ranger, I beg to present to you *Mr.*——, who *is a Candidate* for admission to the Order.

**C. R.**—*Mr.*——, your membership in this Order is contingent upon your being in perfect health, therefore it is my duty to inquire: Are you at the present time under medical treatment of any kind, or taking medicine for any disease or ailment?

**Candidate.**—I am not.

**C. R.**—Then I am to understand that you are at the present time in good, sound mental and physical health?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(If the Candidate be under treatment of any kind, or is taking medicine for any disease or ailment, or is otherwise not in perfect health at the time of the initiation, the ceremony must be postponed and all the facts reported to the Secretary of the Medical Board; but if he be in good, sound mental and physical health, the ceremony will be proceeded with as follows:)

**C. R.**—Brethren, assist me to confer the Obligation upon the *Candidate* who *has* been found worthy of fellowship with us in our noble Order.

● ● ●

**C. R.**—*The* (or "*Each*") Candidate will say "I," pronounce his own name in full, and repeat after me

## THE OBLIGATION.

1 I,*(name in full)* | of my own free will and accord, |
2 do most solemnly and sincerely | promise and
3 declare, | that I will never reveal | any word, sign,
4 grip or token, | or any private work of the Inde-
5 pendent Order of Foresters, | which shall now, |
6 or may hereafter, | be communicated to me, | to
7 any one in the world, | unless it be | to a member

8 in good standing in this Order. | I will not repeat
9 outside of the Court Room | any transaction
10 whatsoever | which may take place therein, | un-
11 less I am duly authorized so to do | by the con-
12 stituted authorities of the Order. | I also promise |
13 that I will not wrong a fellow member, | nor see
14 one wronged, | if in my power to prevent it, | and
15 will do all I can | to alleviate the needs, | protect
16 the honor, | and advance the welfare of a member
17 of this Order. | I will bear true allegiance | to The
18 Supreme Court, | and be loyal thereto, | as the
19 supreme authority | of the whole Order; | and
20 will at all times | submit to, | and be governed
21 by, | the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Usages, |
22 which it may enact or establish | from time to
23 time. | I further promise and agree, | that, should
24 I, from any cause, | cease to be a member of the
25 Order, | my obligation of secrecy | shall remain
26 binding and in full force. | For the faithful observ-
27 ance of all these promises | I hereby pledge my
28 sacred honor.

● ●

**C. R.**—Woodwards, you will now conduct the *Candidate* to the Financial Secretary, who will enter *his name* on the membership roll of this Court; after which you will present *him* to me for further instructions.

(After the Candidate has been duly enrolled by the F.S., he will be presented to the C.R., as follows:)

**S. W.**—Chief Ranger, I present to you the newly obligated *Candidate*, who *has* been duly enrolled as *a member* of this Court.

C. R.—*Brother!* I am now authorized to address you by that term, and in the name of

LIBERTY, BENEVOLENCE AND CONCORD,

I bid you welcome into our noble Order. You have bound your*self* to us by a tie which all upright men reverence and respect, and a violation of which will carry with it its own punishment. It becomes you, therefore, from the present hour, to honor our principles by an unblemished course of life, honorable dealing, and conscientious uprightness, whereby you will reflect credit upon your own *character* as *a man*, and add to the dignity and stability of an Order with whose progress and prosperity your own interests are now identified. I present you a *copy* of the

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE ORDER.

Study well their provisions, for you will find that not only your duties to the Brotherhood, but your rights and privileges in the Order are therein clearly set forth.

I will now instruct you in the private work of the Order.

## FIRST SECTION.

The First sign is called the ENTERSIGN and is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The SEA SIGN or SIGN OF DISTRESS is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The WORDS OF DISTRESS are as follows ✱

The TRAVELLING SIGN or SIGN OF RECOGNITION is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

THE WARNING SIGN AND DANGER SIGNAL are given thus ✱

The VOTING SIGN is given thus ✱

The GRIP is given in this manner ✱

The Gavel in the hands of the Officers conveys a certain meaning to the Court. In the hands of the Chief Ranger, three raps call up the whole Court; two raps seat the Court; one rap calls to order. In the hands of the Vice Chief Ranger one rap calls to order; two raps, in answer to the alarm at the inner door, is an order to the Senior Beadle to attend to the alarm.

## SECOND SECTION.

To enter a Court Room while a Court is in session, proceed as follows:

At the outer door give any usual alarm, such as knocking or ringing the bell, the same as at the door of a neighbor. If required by the officer in charge, give the Permanent Password, or letter it with him as he may wish. The Permanent Password is——. This will admit you to the ante-room. There clothe yourself in proper regalia. At the inner door give —— and to the officer in charge give the current Semi-Annual Password, which is ——. This will admit you to the Court Room. Advance to the centre of the room, below the pedestal, and facing the

Chief Ranger, give the Entersign, at the same time saying "Chief Ranger." He will answer you by giving the Countersign, upon which you will take your seat.

If not in order for you to be admitted at the moment of giving the alarm at the inner door (and it is not in order for you to be admitted during the Opening, Closing, or Initiatory Ceremonies), the Senior Beadle will answer your alarm by giving —— on the door, in which case it will be your duty to wait; and as soon as the Ceremony for which you are thus detained is completed, the Senior Beadle will open the wicket; then you will advance and give the proper Password, and will be admitted to the Court Room.

If you are visiting a sister Court, at the inner door give, in addition to the Semi-Annual Password, your name, the name and number of your Court and your rank, if any, in the Order.

If you desire to address the Court, rise in your place and give the Entersign, at the same time saying, "Chief Ranger"; and, when you have received the Countersign from the Chief Ranger, proceed with your remarks. Whenever you cross the room from one side to the other, unless you are an officer entitled to a seat on the dais, cross below the pedestal, and when in front of the Chief Ranger, turn towards him and give simply the Entersign.

If you desire to retire, before the Court has regularly closed, proceed to the saluting point—just below the pedestal—and turn towards the Chief Ranger and

give the Entersign, and say, "Chief Ranger, permit me to retire." The Chief Ranger, if it is proper for you to retire then, will answer you with the Countersign, at the same time saying, "Brother Senior Beadle, permit the brother to retire," upon which you will retire without further ceremony.

## THIRD SECTION.

The HONORS to visitors of rank are given as follows, the Court in each case being called up :

TO CHIEF RANGERS AND PAST CHIEF RANGERS. Each member will give the Old Sign of Recognition, thus ⁕

TO DEPUTIES OF THE SUPREME CHIEF RANGER AND OF A HIGH CHIEF RANGER. Each member will assume the attitude of Initiation, thus ⁕

TO OFFICERS OF A HIGH COURT. The Old Sign of Recognition and the Entersign are given together, thus ⁕

TO an OFFICER OF THE SUPREME COURT, other than the Supreme Chief Ranger. Each member will give The Supreme Court Salutation, thus ⁕

TO the SUPREME CHIEF RANGER. Each member will give the Royal Salute, thus ⁕

You have now received the whole of the private work of this Degree, and have thus been invested with all the rights and privileges of *a member* of our beloved Order.

● ● ●

C. R.—And now by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Order, I proclaim you *a Forester*, and entitled to the full protection and all the benefits given by the Independent Order of Foresters. Brethren, I request you to join with me in extending a cordial greeting to our newly initiated *brother*.

# INSTALLATION CEREMONY.

(The officers who are entitled to install are the S.C.R., the other Executive and Past Executive officers of The Supreme Court; a H.C.R., the other Executive and Past Executive officers of a High Court; and the Deputies of the S.C.R., and of a H.C.R. The officer conducting the Ceremony of Installation shall at all times during the ceremony be addressed by his proper title, as S.C.R., H.C.R., D.S.C.R., etc., as the case may be. In public Installations, employ four raps for calling up and three for seating the Court. All being ready, the Installing Officer will proceed as follows:)

**S. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, your officers having been constitutionally elected, the necessary returns duly executed and delivered, and this Court having paid all premiums, dues, taxes and other demands, it is my pleasure that the Installation of the officers-elect be proceeded with, for which purpose you will direct the present officers to vacate their respective stations.

**C. R.**—Officers of Court ——, No.—, by command of the Supreme Chief Ranger, I direct you to relinquish your stations to your successors, when they shall have been installed.

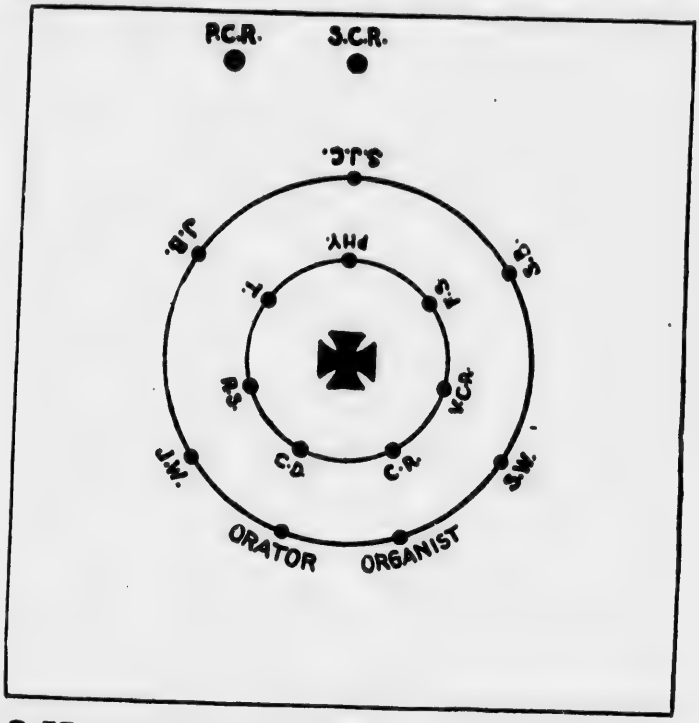
**S. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, in recognition of your eminent services, it is my desire that, on this occasion, you occupy the post of honor upon my right, as Junior Past Chief Ranger of the Court.

(If the C.R. has been re-elected, then the above will be addressed to the junior P.C.R. The Installing Officer will then appoint a Supreme or High Marshal and Conductor, as the case may be.)

●

**S. C. R.**—The Recording Secretary will call the roll of officers to be installed, and the Supreme Marshal will arrange them at the pedestal for receiving the Obligation.

(The S.M. will arrange the C.D., C.R., V.C.R., R.S., F.S., Treas. and the Phys. in a circle around the pedestal; the remaining officers will form a second circle around the principal officers, and about two feet from the inner circle, as under :)




**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, the officers to be installed are at the pedestal ready to take the Obligation of office.

● ● ●

**S. C. R.**—Each of the officers will say "I," pronounce his name in full, and repeat after me the

## OBLIGATION OF OFFICE.

I, (*name in full*), in the presence of these witnesses, do most solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, honestly and faithfully perform the duties of the office to which I have been elected. I will act with strict impartiality in all matters connected with my office, and see that every brother has his just dues. I will observe the Constitution and Laws, and will obey the Rules and Regulations of the Order, and be governed by the same. I will defend and abide by the Ritual of the Order, and will suffer no innovations therein. I will pay due respect and obedience to my superiors, and treat with kindness and consideration those who are my subordinates in office. I further promise and declare that I will safely keep and preserve the Charter, books, papers, regalia, furniture, or other property or effects, or funds of this Court, or of any other Court of the Order, which may come into my possession or custody, and use the same solely for the benefit of the Independent Order of Foresters; and that, at the close of my term of office, I will safely transfer and deliver them to my successor in office, or at any time upon demand of the Supreme Chief Ranger, to him personally, or to any one whom he may designate to receive the same. For the faithful observance of each and all of these several points, I pledge my most sacred honor.

(The officers just obligated will then take seats below the pedestal, and the S.M. will present them to the S.C.R. for investiture, in the following order :)

## BEADLES.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I present to you the Senior and Junior Beadles for investiture with their badges of office.

**S. C. R.**—Brothers Senior and Junior Beadles, you will faithfully guard the doors, and allow no one to enter the Court Room without permission of the Chief Ranger, unless he shall give the proper passwords; and in all things strive to promote the welfare and harmony of your Court.

The Supreme Marshal will now invest you with your badges of office, and the Supreme Conductor will escort you to your respective posts, where you will at once enter upon the discharge of your duties.

## WOODWARDS.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, the Woodwards are before you for investiture with their badges of office.

**S. C. R.**—Brothers Senior and Junior Woodwards, it will be your duty to see if all present at the opening of the Court are worthy Foresters; to visit the sick, and attend to their wants; take charge of and carefully keep all the property of the Court, and at the end of your term of office hand the same over to your successors in office; and perform such other lawful duties as may be ordered by the Chief Ranger, or by the Court. I am persuaded that you will so discharge all of your duties as to merit a still further confidence of your Court.

The Supreme Marshal will now invest you with your badges of office and the Supreme Conductor will escort you to your stations in the Court.

## ORATOR AND SUPT. OF JUVENILE COURT.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I have the honor to present the Orator and the Superintendent of Juvenile Court for investiture with the badges of their respective offices.

**S. C. R.**—Brother Orator, you have been chosen to fill an honorable position in this Court, I trust you will always strive to spread the principles of our Order, and to advise the members of this Court in conformity with our laws, rules and usages, so as to insure the increasing prosperity of our Order.

Brother Superintendent of Juvenile Court, the department assigned you is deserving of your best energies. If there be at present no Juvenile Court under your charge, I trust ere the expiration of your term of office we shall have a flourishing one established under your care and superintendency.

The Supreme Marshal will now invest each of you with the badge of your office, and the Supreme Conductor will escort you to your stations in the Court.

## TREASURER.
## FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I beg to present to you the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary for investiture with the badges of their respective offices.

**S. C. R.**—Brother Treasurer, your duties are more especially to safely keep the funds of this Court, and pay all legal orders drawn upon you out of such funds. The great importance and responsibility of

the office you have assumed will always admonish you to hold untarnished the honor you have just now pledged to your Court.

Brother Financial Secretary, it will be your duty to keep an accurate account of the financial standing of each member of your Court, and at each meeting of the Court pay over to the Treasurer all funds then in your hands, taking his receipt for the same; to issue all notices required by the Constitution and Laws, Rules and Usages of the Order, or that may be ordered by the Court; to send true and correct returns and make proper remittances to The Supreme Court and to the High Court. I am persuaded that you fully appreciate the importance of the duties appertaining to your office, and that the pledges just given by you will be faithfully redeemed.

Supreme Marshal, invest these worthy brothers with the badges of their respective offices, after which the Supreme Conductor will escort them to their stations in the Court to enter upon the discharge of their duties as soon as they shall have given the bonds required by the Constitution and Laws of the Order

## RECORDING SECRETARY.
## ORGANIST.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I now have pleasure in presenting the Recording Secretary and the Organist for investiture with the badges of their respective offices.

**S. C. R.**—Brother Recording Secretary, you will keep accurate minutes of all meetings of this Court;

pay all moneys coming into your hands to the Financial Secretary; you will not take part, directly or indirectly, in any illegal transaction, nor suffer other members to do so, if in your power to prevent it; make true and correct returns to The Supreme Court, and to the High Court; conduct all the correspondence of the Court; place promptly before the Court all correspondence received from The Supreme Court or the High Court; sign all orders voted by the Court and none other, unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and Laws of the Order; and perform such other lawful duties as may be ordered by the Chief Ranger, or by the Court.

Brother Organist, you are to superintend and conduct the musical services of the Court, and perform such other lawful duties as may be assigned to you by the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Order or by the Court. Yours is an important position in the Court, for by the proper performance of the functions of your office you can add materially to the effectiveness of the ceremonies and the interest and pleasure of the meetings. I have no doubt you will always strive to do so.

Supreme Marshal, invest these worthy brethren with the badges of their offices, after which the Supreme Conductor will escort them to their posts.

## VICE CHIEF RANGER.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I have pleasure in presenting to you the Vice Chief Ranger for investiture with the badge of his office.

**S. C. R.**—Brother Vice Chief Ranger, it will be your duty to aid in preserving order, and in the absence of the Chief Ranger and the Past Chief Rangers of your Court, to perform to the best of your ability, the duties of presiding officer, and to strive by all lawful means to advance the welfare of the Court. You will not take part, directly nor indirectly, in any illegal transaction, nor suffer others to do so, if in your power to prevent it; and perform such other lawful duties as may be required of you by the Constitution and Laws of the Order, or by the Court.

The Supreme Marshal will now invest you with the badge of your office, and the Supreme Conductor will escort you to your station in the Court to enter upon the discharge of your duties.

### PAST CHIEF RANGER.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I now present the Past Chief Ranger.

**S. C. R.**—Brother Junior Past Chief Ranger, it affords me much pleasure to have the privilege of decorating you with this badge of honor. May this Court, and the Order, long enjoy the benefits of your wise counsel and ripe experience. You will now be escorted by the Supreme Conductor to your post.

### CHIEF RANGER.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I have now the honor to present to you Brother ——, the Chief Ranger of this Court, for investiture with the badge of his office.

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**S. C. R.**—Brother ——, you have been elected to the highest position in the gift of your brethren. As Chief Ranger of the Court, your duties will be multifarious, and at times very onerous, requiring from you great patience and tact. As chief executive officer, you should hold the interests of the Court, and of its members, of paramount importance. Ever strive to promote harmony among your members; rule with kindness; reprove in brotherly love; and above all, set an example of promptness and regularity in attending the meetings of the Court, and of loyal obedience to the Constitution and Laws of the Order. I now invest you with the badge of your office, in the full confidence that it will be handed to your successor in office as unsullied as you now receive it, and I welcome you to your post of trust and honor. Take the Constitution and Laws and the Ritual of the Order as your guide and instructors. I commit to your keeping the Charter of this Court; may you ever cherish and defend it as the Magna Charta of your Forestric liberties and privileges; and may God protect you in health, and give you wisdom to govern this Court with honor to yourself and prosperity to our beloved Order. I have great pleasure in seating you in your official chair, and I proclaim you the Chief Ranger of this Court; I now surrender to you this gavel, the emblem of your authority; enter upon the discharge of your duties by seating the Court.

## PHYSICIAN.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I have the honor

to present the Physician of this Court for investiture with the badge of his office.

**S. C. R.**—Brother, you have been elected for appointment to one of the most important and responsible positions in the Order. To your skill, diligence and integrity are to be committed, in a great measure, not only the lives of the members of the Court, but also the very life of the Order. Upon the careful medical selection of our membership, as well as upon their moral worth, rests the success and perpetuity of our noble Order. Do you accept the high and honorable position to which you have been appointed, with a full appreciation of all its duties and responsibilities?

**Physician.**—I do.

**S. C. R.** And do you promise to act with strict justice and impartiality in all cases, and according to your best judgment?

**Physician.**—I do.

**S. C. R.**—Do you further promise to make a thorough and careful examination as to the physical fitness of all applicants for admission to this Court, and recommend for membership only those who are, in your judgment, sound in mind and body?

**Physician.**—I do.

**S. C. R.**—And lastly, do you promise to attend, with diligence and fidelity, all members of the Court who may require your professional services?

**Physician.**—I do.

**S. C. R.**—I now invest you with the badge of your office. You will at once make application for your Commission as Court Physician, and as soon as you receive the same you will enter upon the discharge of your duties with the full consciousness that upon the fidelity, integrity and judgment with which you perform your duties rests the prosperity of our noble Order.

The Supreme Conductor will now conduct you to your station in the Court.

## COURT DEPUTY.

**S. M.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I have now the honor to present to you for investiture with the badge of his office, Brother ——, who has been elected to be commissioned as Court Deputy of this Court.

**S. C. R.**—Brother ——, you have been recommended to the most honorable position in the Court. It is your duty to exercise a general supervision over the work of the Court; to give decisions on points of law when appealed to, and to enforce a strict adherence to the requirements of the Constitution and Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Order; to install the officers of this Court in the absence of superior officers; and to perform such other duties as may be required of you by the Constitution and Laws, or by the constituted authorities of the Order. I have every confidence that you will discharge the duties of your office faithfully and efficiently.

I now invest you with the badge of your office;

please take your seat of honor on the left of the Chief Ranger.

**S. C. R.**—Supreme Marshal, it is my pleasure that you proclaim the officers of Court ———, No.—, duly and legally installed.

(The S. M. will stand immediately in front of the Chair, face the Court and make proclamation as follows :)

**S. M.**—By Command of the Supreme Chief Ranger, I proclaim the officers of Court ———, No. —, of the Independent Order of Foresters, duly and legally installed ; and may peace, harmony and goodwill ever reign within these walls.

# CEREMONY OF

# INSTITUTING A NEW COURT.

(The ceremony of instituting a new Court shall be conducted by the Supreme Chief Ranger, or, in his absence, by the next highest officer present. When everything is ready and the doors properly tyled or secured, the Instituting Officer shall, if there are other Foresters present, appoint an acting Secretary and a Marshal to assist in the ceremony. After which the Instituting Officer will proceed as follows:)

**Instituting Officer.**—Gentlemen, we are about to institute a new Court of the Independent Order of Foresters. If there be any present who have not signed the Application for a Charter, and are desirous of so doing, they have the opportunity now.

(After all have signed who desire to do so, the Instituting Officer will ask all who have not signed the Application for a Charter, and who are not Foresters, to withdraw, after which the ceremony will be proceeded with as follows:)

**I. O.**—The Secretary will call the roll, and as each one is called he will step to the desk of the Secretary and pay the required fees. The Secretary will enter the amounts paid opposite each applicant's name in the proper columns of the Application for a Charter.

The fees payable by Charter members are as follows:

[1] The Charter Fee, which must be not less than $1 nor more than $5 per member.

[2] Each applicant pays for Certificate of Membership $1.

[3] The Registration Fee, which is *fifty cents* for each $500 of Mortuary Benefit taken.

[4] Each one must pay his own Medical Examination Fee.

(The Medical Examination Fee is $1.50 for $500 or $1,000 of Mortuary Benefit, for $2,000 or $3,000 the Fee is $2.00, and for $4,000 or $5,000 of Mortuary Benefit the Fee is $3.00.)

[5] Each applicant applying to be enrolled in The Supreme Court Sick and Funeral Benefits, must pay in addition an Enrolment Fee of $1.00 and a Registration Fee of $1.00.

(After all the Fees are collected, the Ceremony will be proceeded with as follows :)

**I. O.**—The next duty, gentlemen, is to select the name of the Court.

(If the name has not already been selected, it will then be done, care being taken not to select the name of a living person, nor the name of an existing Court. It is always advisable to select an alternative name.)

**I. O.**—The Marshal will now present the Charter Applicants for obligation.

(The M. having presented the Charter Applicants in a semi-circle below the pedestal, the Ceremony will be proceeded with as follows :)

(The Instituting Officer must here, and to the end of the Ceremony, be addressed by his correct title as S.C.R., H.C.R., D.S.C.R., etc., as the case may be.)

**M.**—(I. O.), I beg to present these gentlemen, who have duly signed the Application for a Charter, to take upon themselves the Obligation of the Order.

**I. O.**—Each of you will say "I," pronounce your own name in full, and repeat after me

## THE OBLIGATION.

1 I, *(name in full)* | of my own free will and accord, |
2 do most solemnly and sincerely | promise and
3 declare, | that I will never reveal | any word, sign,
4 grip or token, | or any private work of the Inde-
5 pendent Order of Foresters, | which shall now, |
6 or may hereafter, | be communicated to me, | to
7 any one in the world, | unless it be | to a member

8 in good standing in this Order. | I will not repeat
9 outside of the Court Room | any transaction
10 whatsoever | which may take place therein, | un-
11 less I am duly authorized so to do | by the con-
12 stituted authorities of the Order. | I also promise |
13 that I will not wrong a fellow member, | nor see
14 one wronged, | if in my power to prevent it, | and
15 will do all I can | to alleviate the needs, | protect
16 the honor, | and advance the welfare of a member
17 of this Order. | I will bear true allegiance | to The
18 Supreme Court, | and be loyal thereto, | as the
19 supreme authority | of the whole Order; | and
20 will at all times | submit to, | and be governed
21 by, | the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Usages, |
22 which it may enact or establish | from time to
23 time. | I further promise and agree, | that, should
24 I, from any cause, | cease to be a member of the
25 Order, | my obligation of secrecy | shall remain
26 binding and in full force. | For the faithful observ-
27 ance of all these promises | I hereby pledge my
28 sacred honor.

**I. O.**—Gentlemen, having taken upon yourselves the obligation of our Order, and having paid the fees required of you, I will now instruct you in the private work of the Order.

## FIRST SECTION.

The First sign is called the ENTERSIGN and is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The SEA SIGN or SIGN OF DISTRESS is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The WORDS OF DISTRESS are as follows ✱

The TRAVELLING SIGN or SIGN OF RECOGNITION is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

THE WARNING SIGN AND DANGER SIGNAL are given thus ✱

The VOTING SIGN is given thus ✱

The GRIP is given in this manner ✱

The Gavel in the hands of the Officers conveys a certain meaning to the Court. In the hands of the Chief Ranger, three raps call up the whole Court; two raps seat the Court; one rap calls to order. In the hands of the Vice Chief Ranger one rap calls to order; two raps, in answer to the alarm at the inner door, is an order to the Senior Beadle to attend to the alarm.

## SECOND SECTION.

To enter a Court Room while a Court is in session, proceed as follows:

At the outer door give any usual alarm, such as knocking or ringing the bell, the same as at the door of a neighbor. If required by the officer in charge, give the Permanent Password, or letter it with him as he may wish. The Permanent Password is——. This will admit you to the ante-room. There clothe yourself in proper regalia. At the inner door give —— and to the officer in charge give the current

Semi-Annual Pas word, which is ——. This will admit you to the Court Room. Advance to the centre of the room, below the pedestal, and facing the Chief Ranger, give the Entersign, at the same time saying, "Chief Ranger." He will answer you by giving the Countersign, upon which you will take your seat.

If not in order for you to be admitted at the moment of giving the alarm at the inner door (and it is not in order for you to be admitted during the Opening, Closing, or Initiatory Ceremonies), the Senior Beadle will answer your alarm by giving —— on the door, in which case it will be your duty to wait; and as soon as the Ceremony for which you are thus detained is completed, the Senior Beadle will open the wicket; then you will advance and give the proper Password, and will be admitted to the Court Room.

If you are visiting a sister Court, at the inner door give, in addition to the Semi-Annual Password, your name, the name and number of your Court and your rank, if any, in the Order.

If you desire to address the Court, rise in your place and give the Entersign, at the same time saying, "Chief Ranger"; and, when you have received the Countersign from the Chief Ranger, proceed with your remarks. Whenever you cross the room from one side to the other, unless you are an officer entitled to a seat on the dais, cross below the pedestal, and when in front of the Chief Ranger, turn towards him and give simply the Entersign.

If you desire to retire, before the Court has regularly closed, proceed to the saluting point—just below the pedestal—and turn towards the Chief Ranger and give the Entersign, and say, "Chief Ranger, permit me to retire." The Chief Ranger, if it is proper for you to retire then, will answer you with the Countersign, at the same time saying, "Brother Senior Beadle, permit the brother to retire," upon which you will retire without further ceremony.

## THIRD SECTION.

The Honors to visitors of rank are given as follows, the Court in each case being called up :

To Chief Rangers and Past Chief Rangers. Each member will give the Old Sign of Recognition, thus ✱

To Deputies of the Supreme Chief Ranger and of a High Chief Ranger. Each member will assume the attitude of Initiation, thus ✱

To Officers of a High Court. The Old Sign of Recognition and the Entersign are given together, thus ✱

To an Officer of the Supreme Court, other than the Supreme Chief Ranger. Each member will give The Supreme Court Salutation, thus ✱

To the Supreme Chief Ranger. Each member will give the Royal Salute, thus ✱

You have now received the whole of the private work of this Degree, and have thus been invested

with all the rights and privileges of members of our beloved Order.

BRETHREN! I am now authorized to address you by that term, and in the name of

LIBERTY, BENEVOLENCE AND CONCORD

I bid you welcome into our noble Order. You have bound yourselves to us by a tie which all upright men reverence and respect, and a violation of which will carry with it its own punishment. It becomes you, therefore, from the present hour, to honor our principles by an unblemished course of life, honorable dealing, and conscientious uprightness, whereby you will reflect credit upon your own characters as men, and add to the dignity and stability of an Order with whose progress and prosperity your own interests are now identified. I present each of you a copy of the Constitution and Laws of the Order; study well their provisions, for you will find that not only your duties to the Brotherhood, but your rights and privileges in the Order are therein clearly set forth.

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I. O.—I will now appoint Brothers (Naming the brethren.) a committee to recommend a staff of officers.

(When the committee have made their selection, and if the selection meets with the approval of the Instituting Officer, he will, in behalf of the Executive Council, appoint them the first staff of officers, and proceed to install them.)

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

I. O.—Brethren, in behalf of the Executive Council of The Supreme Court, I will now install as the

officers of this Court, the Brethren whose names have been reported by the committee.

**I. O.**—The Secretary will please call the names of the staff of officers selected by the committee, commencing with that of the Court Deputy, and in the order of their rank; and the Marshal will please arrange them in a semi-circle below the pedestal, the Court Deputy on the right of the semi-circle, and the others on his left, according to rank.

**M.**—(I.O.), the officers to be installed are at the pedestal ready to take the Obligation of office.

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**I. O.**—Each of you will say "I," pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me the

## OBLIGATION OF OFFICE.

I, (*name in full*), in the presence of these witnesses, do most solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, honestly and faithfully perform the duties of the office to which I have been selected. I will act with strict impartiality in all matters connected with my office, and see that every brother has his just dues. I will observe the Constitution and Laws, and will obey the Rules and Regulations of the Order, and be governed by the same. I will defend and abide by the Ritual of the Order, and will suffer no innovations therein. I will pay due respect and obedience to my superiors, and treat with kindness and consideration those who are my subordinates in office. I further promise and declare that I will safely keep and pre-

serve the Charter, books, papers, regalia, furniture, or other property or effects, or funds of this Court, or of any other Court of the Order, which may come into my possession or custody, and use the same solely for the benefit of the Independent Order of Foresters; and that, at the close of my term of office, I will safely transfer and deliver them to my successor in office, or at any time upon demand of the Supreme Chief Ranger, to him personally, or to any one whom he may designate to receive the same. For the faithful observance of each and all of these several points, I pledge my most sacred honor.

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(The officers just obligated will still remain standing.)

**I. O.**—The Marshal will now present the officers, in front of this dais, to be inducted into office. Present first the two Brothers who, in conjunction with the Chief Ranger, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, will be the Trustees of this Court.

(M. presents them, and the others in their order.)

## TRUSTEES.

**M.**—(I.O.), I present the Trustees.

**I. O.**—Brothers, I am persuaded that the committee has made no mistake in selecting you for the position of Trustees. Your duties are defined in Sections 142 and 155 of the Constitution and Laws of the Order. While the duties are not arduous, they are responsible. You owe it to yourselves, as well as to the Court, to zealously discharge the trusts reposed in you. You may now resume your seats.

## BEADLES.

**M.**—(I.O.), I present to you the Senior and Junior Beadles.

**I. O.**—Brothers Senior and Junior Beadles, you will faithfully guard the doors, and allow no one to enter the Court Room without permission of the Chief Ranger, unless he shall give the proper passwords; and in all things strive to promote the welfare and harmony of your Court.

The Marshal will now conduct you to your respective posts, where you will at once enter upon the discharge of your duties.

## WOODWARDS.

**M.**—(I.O.), the Woodwards are before you.

**I. O.**—Brothers Senior and Junior Woodwards, it will be your duty to see if all present at the opening of the Court are worthy Foresters; to visit the sick, and attend to their wants; take charge of and carefully keep the regalia and other property of the Court, and at the end of your term of office hand the same over to your successors in office; and perform such other lawful duties as may be ordered by the Chief Ranger, or by the Court. I am persuaded that you will so discharge all of your duties as to merit a still further confidence of your Court.

The Marshal will now escort you to your stations in the Court.

## ORATOR AND SUPT. OF JUVENILE COURT.

**M.**—(I.O.), I now present the Orator and the Superintendent of Juvenile Court.

**I. O.**—Brother Orator, you have been chosen to fill an honorable position in this Court, I trust you will always strive to spread the principles of our Order, and to advise the members of this Court in conformity with our laws, rules and usages, so as to insure the increasing prosperity of our Order.

Brother Superintendent of Juvenile Court, the department assigned you is deserving of your best energies. I trust ere the expiration of your term of office we shall have a flourishing Juvenile Court under your care and superintendency.

The Marshal will now escort you to your stations in the Court.

## TREASURER.

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

**M.**—(I.O.), I now present the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary.

**I. O.**—Brother Treasurer, your duties are more especially to safely keep the funds of this Court, and pay all legal orders drawn upon you out of such funds. The great importance and responsibility of the office you have assumed will always admonish you to hold untarnished the honor you have just now pledged to your Court.

Brother Financial Secretary, it will be your duty to keep an accurate account of the financial standing of each member of your Court, and at each meeting of the Court pay over to the Treasurer all funds then in your hands, taking his receipt for the same; to issue all notices required by the Constitution and

Laws, Rules and Usages of the Order, or that may be ordered by the Court; to send true and correct returns and make proper remittances to The Supreme Court and to the High Court. I am persuaded that you fully appreciate the importance of the duties appertaining to your office, and that the pledges just given by you will be faithfully redeemed.

The Marshal will escort you to your stations in the Court, to enter upon the discharge of your duties. You are required by the Constitution and Laws of the Order to give bonds; this should be done immediately.

## RECORDING SECRETARY.
## ORGANIST.

**M.**—(I.O.), I now present the Recording Secretary and the Organist.

**I. O.**—Brother Recording Secretary, you will keep accurate minutes of all meetings of this Court; pay all moneys coming into your hands to the Financial Secretary; you will not take part, directly nor indirectly, in any illegal transaction, nor suffer other members to do so, if in your power to prevent it; make true and correct returns to The Supreme Court, and to the High Court; conduct all the correspondence of the Court; place promptly before the Court all correspondence received from the Supreme Court or the High Court; sign all orders voted by the Court and none other, unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and Laws of the Order; and perform such other lawful duties as may be ordered by the Chief Ranger, or by the Court.

Brother Organist, you are to superintend and conduct the musical services of the Court, and perform such other lawful duties as may be assigned to you by the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Order, or by the Court. Yours is an important position in the Court, for by the proper performance of the functions of your office you can add materially to the effectiveness of the ceremonies and the interest and pleasure of the meetings. I have no doubt you will always strive to do so.

The Marshal will conduct you to your stations in the Court, where you will immediately enter upon the discharge of your duties.

## VICE CHIEF RANGER.

**M.**—(I.O.), I present to you Brother ———, the Vice Chief Ranger.

**I. O.**—Brother Vice Chief Ranger, it will be your duty to aid in preserving order, and in the absence of the Chief Ranger and the Past Chief Rangers of your Court, to perform to the best of your ability, the duties of presiding officer, and to strive by all lawful means to advance the welfare of the Court; you will not take part, directly nor indirectly, in any illegal transaction, nor suffer others to do so, if in your power to prevent it; and perform such other lawful duties as may be required of you by the Constitution and Laws of the Order, or by the Court.

The Marshal will now escort you to your station in the Court, to enter upon the discharge of your duties.

## PAST CHIEF RANGER.

**M.**—(I.O.), I now present the Past Chief Ranger.

**I. O.**—Brother Past Chief Ranger, you are to preside at the meetings of this Court in the absence of the Chief Ranger, and at such times to perform all his duties, and therefore the admonition that will be given to the Chief Ranger will be equally applicable to you; you are also to assist in the initiatory ceremony and to perform such other duties as may be required by the Ritual or the Constitution and Laws of the Order. I am persuaded that this Court will never have cause to regret the distinguished honor that is now bestowed upon you.

The Marshal will now conduct you to your post of honor.

## CHIEF RANGER.

**M.**—(I.O.), I now have the honor of presenting to you Brother ——, the Chief Ranger.

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**I. O.**—Brother ——, you have been chosen to the highest position in this Court. As Chief Ranger of the Court, your duties will be multifarious, and at times very onerous, requiring from you great patience and tact. As chief executive officer, you should hold the interests of the Court, and of its members, of paramount importance. Ever strive to promote harmony among the members; rule with kindness; reprove in brotherly love; and above all, set an example of promptness and regularity in attending the meetings of the Court. Take the Constitution and

Laws and the Ritual of the Order as your guide and instructors. I have great pleasure in seating you in your official chair, in the full confidence that you will redeem the obligations you have assumed, and that the office will be surrendered to your successor with your honor untarnished and your impartiality as a presiding officer unchallenged. Welcome to your post of honor.

(The C.R. is conducted by the I.O. to his proper station.)

## PHYSICIAN.

**M.**—(I.O.), I have the honor to present Brother Dr. ——, the Physician of this Court.

**I. O.**—Brother Dr. ——, you have been chosen to one of the most important and responsible positions in the Order. To your skill, diligence and integrity are to be committed, in a great measure, not only the lives of the members of the Court, but also the very life of the Order. Upon the careful medical selection of our membership, as well as upon their moral worth, rests the success and perpetuity of our noble Order. Do you accept the high and honorable position to which you have been appointed, with a full appreciation of all its duties and responsibilities?

**Physician.**—I do.

**I. O.**—And do you promise to act with strict justice and impartiality in all cases, and according to your best judgment?

**Physician.**—I do.

**I. O.**—Do you further promise to make a thorough and careful examination as to the physical fitness of all applicants for admission to this Court, and recommend for membership only those who are, in your judgment, sound in mind and body?

**Physician.**—I do.

**I. O.**—And lastly, do you promise to attend, with diligence and fidelity, all members of the Court who may require your professional services?

**Physician.**—I do.

**I. O.**—If you have not made application for a commission you should do so at once, and when you receive your Commission as Court Physician, you will enter upon the discharge of your duties with the full consciousness that upon the fidelity, integrity and judgment with which you perform your duties rests the prosperity of our noble Order. Your duties as Court Physician are clearly defined in Section 151 of the Constitution and Laws of the Order; and as Medical Examiner you will find valuable information in the Instructions to Medical Examiners, furnished by The Supreme Court.

The Marshal will now conduct you to your place in the Court Room.

## COURT DEPUTY.

**M.**—(I.O.), I have now the honor to present to you Brother——, who has been selected to be commissioned as Court Deputy of this Court.

**I. O.**—Brother ——, you have been chosen to the most honorable position in the Court. It is your duty to exercise a general supervision over the work of the Court; to give decisions on points of law when appealed to, and to enforce a strict adherence to the requirements of the Constitution and Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Order; to install the officers of this Court in the absence of superior officers; and to perform such other duties as may be required of you by the Constitution and Laws, or by the constituted authorities of the Order. You should, therefore, carefully read the Instructions to Deputies, and post yourself thoroughly on the Constitution and Laws of the Order, and be in attendance at every meeting of the Court. Ever strive to discharge the duties of your office faithfully and efficiently. You will now please take your seat of honor on the left of the Chief Ranger.

**I. O.**—Brother Marshal, you will now proclaim the officers of this Court duly and legally installed.

(The M. will stand immediately in front of the Chair, face the Court and make proclamation as follows:)

**M.**—By command of the (I. O.), I proclaim the officers of Court ————, (No. —, *if known*), of the Independent Order of Foresters, duly and legally installed; and may peace, harmony and good-will ever reign within these walls.

**I. O.**—Brethren, your officers having been duly installed, I congratulate you on the successful performance of a most important ceremony—the institution of a new Court in this place. It is by such

inaugurations as this that our noble Order will extend its ramifications throughout the length and breadth of the whole land. May the establishment of this Court bind its members together in acts of brotherly love, charity and good-will to mankind, and aid in perpetuating the blessings of social union to the remotest time.

●●●

And now, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Order as *(give title)*, I declare that Court ——, No. —, of the Independent Order of Foresters is duly and legally instituted for the objects and purposes recognized by the Constitution and Laws of the Order now in force or that may hereafter be enacted; and I declare each and every one of you entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed to all worthy Foresters by the Constitution and Laws, Rules and Usages of the Order, according to your being Beneficiary or Social members of the Order—those who have been accepted by the Medical Board are Regular Beneficiary members, those who have been duly examined for beneficiary membership and recommended by the examining physician, on Form No. 59, as first-class risks are Temporary Beneficiary members, and those who have not been examined are and will remain Social members until they have been duly examined and are accepted by the Medical Board.

Under the Constitution and Laws of the Order, those of you who have not been examined by the examining physician and recommended by him for

Temporary Beneficiary membership on Form No. 59, or, in the absence of such recommendation, those whose medical examinations have not been accepted by the Medical Board are Social members. Social members are required to pay Court dues, but they not entitled to any of the monetary or other material benefits of the Order. You, therefore, gain nothing by delaying to be examined; and unless you are examined within three months you will forfeit all the fees and dues you will have paid and will cease to be members of the Order.

Brother Chief Ranger, you will now enter upon the discharge of your duties by seating the Court.

on Form No.
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# RECEPTION CEREMONY

## FOR AN OFFICER IN THE ORDER.

(The officers entitled to Honors when they visit a Court officially are: The Officers of The Supreme Court; the Officers of a High Court; the Deputies of the Supreme Chief Ranger, and of the High Chief Ranger of the jurisdiction; Chief Rangers and Past Chief Rangers).

(When any of the above named officers or deputies visits a Subordinate Court, he will gain admission to the anteroom in the usual way, and make himself and his rank known to the J.B., who will at once alarm the Court by giving three loud knocks upon the inner door, whereupon the S.B. will immediately open the wicket, and the J.B. will inform him of the name and the rank of the visitor. The S.B. will then announce to the C.R. the name and rank of the visitor in waiting, whereupon the C.R. will suspend whatever business is before the Court and receive the visitor.)

## FOR AN OFFICER OF THE SUPREME COURT OR OF A HIGH COURT,

**J. B.**—● ● ● (Gives the S.B. the name and rank of the visitor.)

**S. B.**—Chief Ranger, I have the pleasure of announcing that Brother ——, the ——, is in the anteroom for the purpose of visiting our Court.

●

**C. R.**—Brethren, assist me to receive the distinguished visitor with the Honors due his rank. The Honors due to a *(give rank)* are given as follows: ✻ You must assume that attitude when the Court is called up as the visitor enters the door, and remain at "the salute" till he is seated. I appoint Brothers ——— to act as an escort to the distinguished brother.

(If the visitor is a Supreme Court officer or a High Court officer, the C. R. will appoint two members of the Court [and these two members should be, as a rule, the two present who hold the highest rank in the

Order] to proceed to the anteroom and act as an escort to the visitor. They will forthwith retire to the anteroom and when ready the J.B. will give three loud knocks on the door.)

J. B.—● ● ●

S. B.—(Throws wide open the Door and the Escort and Visitor enter.)

● ● ●

(After the escort and visitor have given the Entersign, and received the response, the Senior Escort, who should be on the right of the visitor, will make the presentation, as follows :—

Senior Escort.—Chief Ranger, I have the honor of presenting to you Brother ——, the ——.

C. R.—(Addressing the Visitor by his Rank.) Brother ——, we are indeed honored by this visit, and it gives us pleasure to extend to you a most hearty fraternal greeting. You will now be conducted to the "post of honor."

(The escort will then conduct the visitor to the "post of honor,' where he will be received by the C.R. and after a hearty hand-shake, will be seated therein. The C.R. will then seat the Court. The escort will resume their respective places.

● ●

C. R.—I have now the great pleasure of introducing to you our distinguished visitor, Brother ———, the ———.

(Members applause).

## FOR A DEPUTY, C. R. OR P. C. P.

J. B.—● ● ● (Gives the S.B. the name and rank of the visitor.)

S. B.—Chief Ranger, I have the pleasure of announcing that Brother ——, (Give rank of the visitor.)——, is in the anteroom for the purpose of visiting our Court.

●

C. R.—Brethren, assist me to receive the visitor, who is (Give the visitor's rank.)——, with the honors due to his rank. The Honors due to a (Give rank.) are given as follows: ✱ You must assume that attitude when the Court is called up as the visitor enters the door, and remain at "the salute" till he is seated. Brother Senior Beadle, permit the visiting officer to enter.

(The S.B. will then permit the visitor to enter the Court, and as he enters, the Court will be called up and give the salutation.)

● ● ●

(After the visitor has given the Entersign in the usual way, the C.R. will give the Countersign and proceed as follows:)

C.R.—Brother——, I am glad to have the privilege of giving you a cordial welcome to our Court. Be good enough to approach the dais and occupy the "post of honor" upon my right.

● ●

# THE ALTERNATIVE RITUAL
... OF ...
# SUBORDINATE COURTS.

## OPENING CEREMONY.

(When the hour arrives for opening the Court, the C.R. will call the Court to order by one rap of the gavel; the officers will then take their respective stations.)

●

C. R.—The Court will please come to order. All who are not members of the Order will please retire.

(If there be any vacancies in the offices, the C.R. will make the necessary *pro tem.* appointments, as follows:)

C. R.—I will appoint Bro.——— as ———*pro tem.*, etc.

C. R.—The Woodwards will see that all present are worthy Foresters.

(The S.W. and J.W. will advance to the C.R. and give the S.A.P.W., and then beginning at the right and left of the Chair, examine all present, of whom they have any doubt, in the current S.A.P.W., except those on the Dais, for whom the C.R. is held responsible. After the examination, the Woodwards will report to the V.C.R., who, when satisfied that all present are worthy Foresters, will report to the C.R., as follows:)

V. C. R.—Chief Ranger, all present are worthy Foresters.

C. R.—Brethren, all present being worthy Foresters, I will thank you to assist me to open the Court.

● ● ●

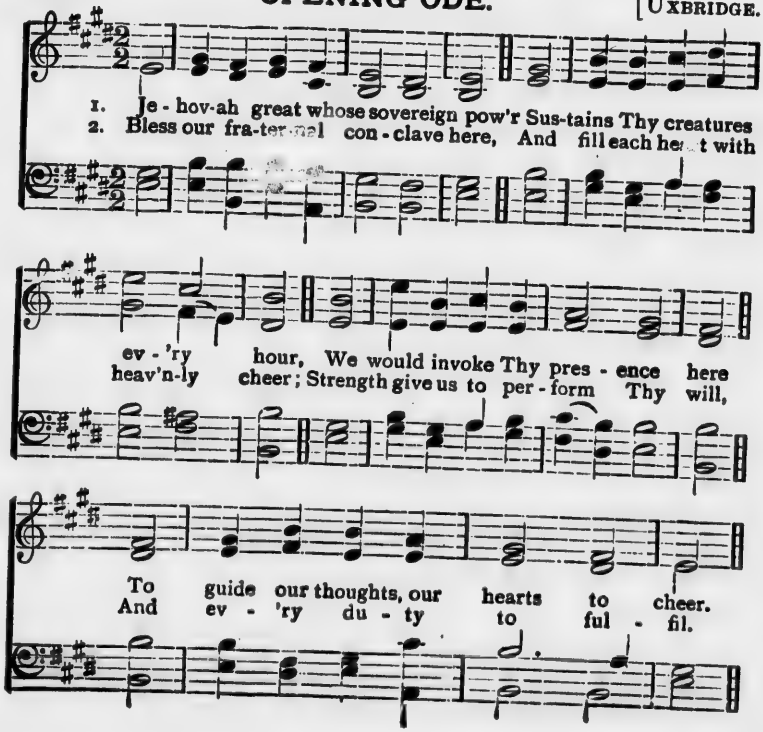
C. R.—Vice Chief Ranger, officers and members, I beg to remind you that it is necessary that you give your undivided attention and best judgment to such matters as may be submitted for the consideration of the Court. Ever keep in mind that we are

assembled, not only to promote our own interests, but to advance the welfare of the Order. Let all our proceedings be characterized by justice, moderation and concord, so that we may always retire, from this our "Forest Home," imbued with the sentiment that "it is good for brethren to dwell together in unity."

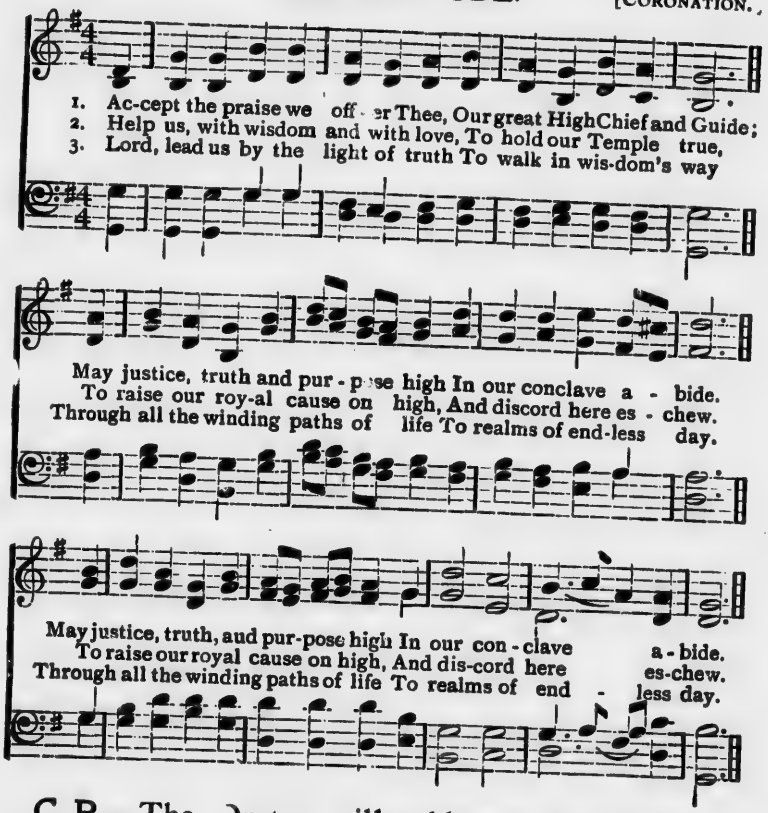
The brethren will sing opening ode, No.—(Give number.)

(The ode may be omitted at the discretion of the C.R.)

**No. 1.** **OPENING ODE.** [UXBRIDGE.



## No. 2. OPENING ODE. [CORONATION.




C. R.—The Orator will address the Throne of Grace.

## OPENING PRAYER.

Orator.—Great and Merciful God, we once more assemble together in Thy holy name, and invoke Thy blessing upon this Court. We pray Thee to

impart wisdom and strength to all members present; guide us all in the paths of peace, virtue and morality; teach us love and affection for each other; to be wise, moderate and just in all our actions; courteous and forgiving to one another, and lenient in condemnation of an erring member. Teach us truth and justice, love and charity to all; and may all our acts tend to Thy great glory and praise, now and for evermore. Amen.

**C. R.**—I now declare the Court duly and legally opened for the transaction of business.

(The C.R. will then begin with No. 2 of the Order of Business and proceed with the same as laid down in the "Order of Business.")

# ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening ceremony.
2. Calling roll of officers.
3. Reading, correcting and confirming the minutes.
4. Propositions for membership.
5. Reports of committees on character.
6. Balloting for candidates.
7. Initiation of candidates.
8. Appointment of the Special Auditing Committee.
9. The Financial Secretary will state when and how he sent the monthly remittance to The Supreme Court for the present month.

{The R.S. will note the date given by F.S., and record whether by P. O. or Express Money Order or Bank Draft.}

(If the F.S. has not sent the report and remittance for the present month, he should be required to do so forthwith. Special attention is directed to Section 161 of the Constitution and Laws of the Order, which clearly shows that it is not necessary for the F.S. to wait for an order to send the monthly remittance to The Supreme Court, but that the order may be drawn at the next meeting of the Court after the remittance has been sent.)

10. The Recording Secretary will draw an order on the Treasurer for the amount of the present month's remittance to The Supreme Court.
11. The duplicate of the monthly report for the present month will now be filed as the property of the Court; and the Special Auditing Committee will carefully examine it, and report on its correctness.
12. The Recording Secretary will read the names of the suspended members for whom notices of reinstatement have been received from the Supreme Secretary since the last meeting, and enter the names in the minutes.
13. Intermission. (During which payments are to be made to the Financial Secretary.)

14. Has the Recording Secretary the receipt for the remittances for the present month?

(If not, and a reasonable time has elapsed since the remittance was made, the R. S. should forthwith write to the S. S., inquiring why the receipt for the monthly remittance has not been forwarded.)

15. Has the Recording Secretary any other communications?

16. Is any Brother out of employment?

17. Reception of general communications.

18. Bills or accounts.

19. Reports of standing committees.

[(*a*)Sick. (*b*)Finance. (*c*)Arbitration, if charges have been referred to it.]

20. Reports of special committees. { (*a*) Special Auditing. (*b*) Other Committees. }

21. Unfinished business.

22. General business.

23. Reports of officers.
24. Election of officers.
25. Installation of officers.

} To be called only at the time of the election and installation of officers.

26. Good and welfare.

27. Closing ceremony.

[Each monthly report and remittance should be made by the Financial Secretary before the *third* day of the month. See Section 247 for penalty for failure to remit. All reports should be written in duplicate; the duplicate should be laid before the Court at its first meeting in each month, and should be carefully examined by the Special Auditing Committee, as to its correctness, and then filed with the records as the property of the Court. See Sections 147 and 246. See Sections 147 (4) and 245 as to *how* all remittances shall be made.

It is the *business* of the officers and members *to know* that the Financial Secretary does his whole duty at the right time and in the right way, failing in which he should be removed from office at once. See Sections 112 (15) and 147 (2 and 3).

When a Court becomes suspended, as provided in Section 247, the penalty of suspension attaches to the members as well, and reinstatement of Court and members can only be effected as provided in Section 248.

Any member who fails to pay on or before the last day of the month, all assessments, dues, fees, taxes, fines and other demands of the Order, for the succeeding month, *ipso facto* stands suspended on the first day of such succeeding month. See Sections 126 (7), 243 (1) and 244. A member suspended for non-payment must apply for reinstatement on Form No. 15 and be reinstated *within ninety days* from the date of his suspension, or he will be rerated at his present age on reinstatement. See Sections 204 and 205 as to how members suspended for non-payment can be reinstated, *and they can be reinstated in no other way*. See Section 207 for the penalty attaching to a Court and the members who permit a suspended member to apply for reinstatement while ill or disabled.

An applicant for membership must not be initiated until he has been examined by the Court Physician or other duly authorized examining Physician and recommended by him to the Court, on Form No. 59, for beneficiary membership, and before the said Form No. 59 has been received by the Recording Secretary, or before his medical examination has been accepted and passed by the Medical Board, as the case may be. See Section 119 (8).

It is to the interest of each member that he procure a copy of the Constitution and Laws as amended at the last session of The Supreme Court, as every member is bound by the Constitution and Laws of the Order as revised from time to time. See Section 3 (6)].

# CLOSING CEREMONY.

**C. R.**—Brethren, assist me to close the Court.

**C. R.**—Financial Secretary, give the name of each member who has paid you since last report, and the amount paid by each; also give the name of each suspended member applying for reinstatement on Form No. 15, and the amount of arrears deposited by each.

**F. S.**—(Rising.)—Chief Ranger, they are as follows:

(The F.S. will here hand a signed memorandum to the R.S., containing the amounts paid to the F.S. since last report and by whom paid, after which he will state audibly to the Court the receipts in detail, naming each brother and the amounts paid; the R.S. will check from the memorandum, handed to him by the F.S., and afterwards enter the same in the minutes. It is the duty of both the C.D. and the C.R. to see that the R.S. enters the names and amounts in the minutes.)

**C. R.**—The Recording Secretary will see that the proper entries are made in the Records, of the names and amounts as just given by the Financial Secretary.

Brother Financial Secretary, you will now hand over to the Treasurer the whole amount you have received since the time he gave his last receipt in your Cash Book, and he will receipt for the same in your Cash Book.

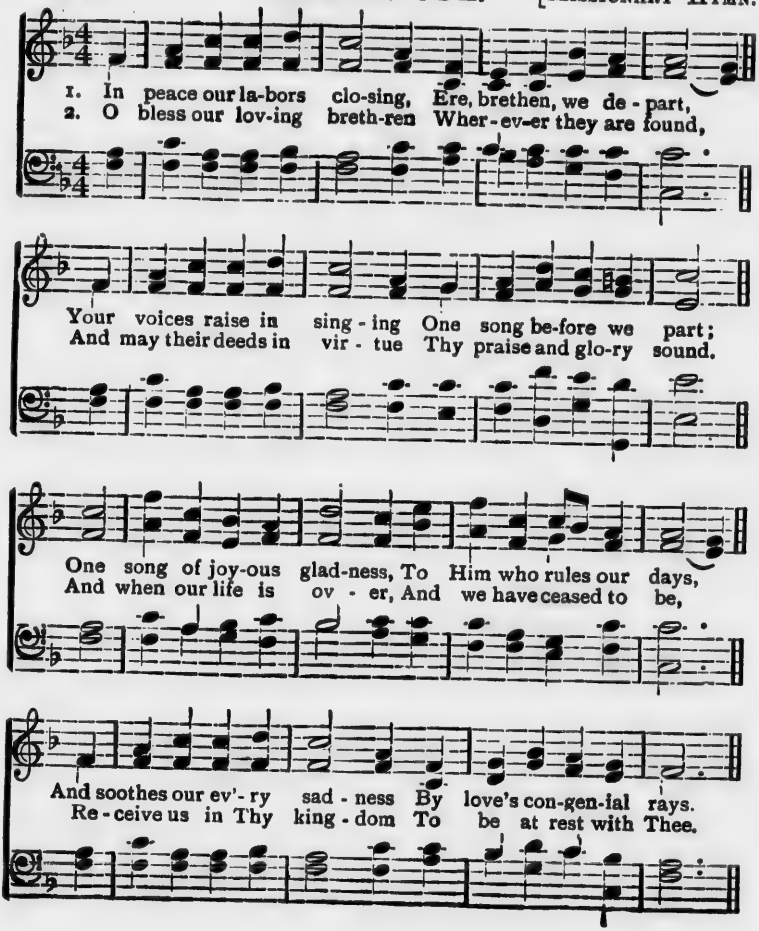
● ● ●

**C. R.**—Brethren, the business of the Court having been concluded, I have to thank you for your presence and attention this evening, and to impress upon your minds the importance of being present upon all occasions of our assembling, not only to watch over the interests of the Court, but to share in its duties and responsibilities. Let each remember, that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

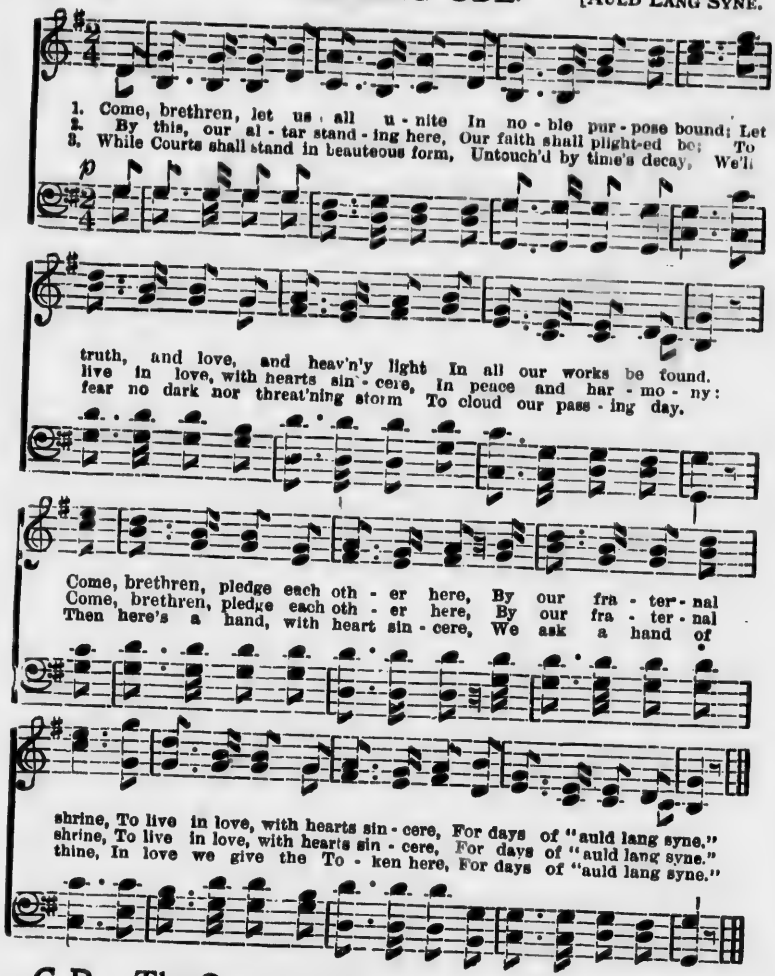
The members will join in singing closing ode, No.—

(The ode may be omitted at the discretion of the C.R.)

**No. 3.** **CLOSING ODE.** [MISSIONARY HYMN.



## No. 4. CLOSING ODE. [AULD LANG SYNE.




C. R.—The Orator will invoke the Divine blessing.

## CLOSING PRAYER.

**Orator.**—Almighty Father, we bow again in humble submission before Thy Throne of Grace. We implore Thy direction and blessing upon all our efforts to advance the principles of our Order; and we earnestly beseech Thee to grant to all Foresters, but especially to all members of this Court, wisdom and strength to walk in the paths of peace, virtue and morality; to be courteous and forgiving, and lenient in condemnation of an erring member. Guide our footsteps in safety to our homes; through the journey of life ever lead us; and finally, through Thy infinite mercy, bring us to Thy Heavenly Court above; and to Thy holy name be all the glory and praise, now and for evermore. Amen.

**V. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, the Court has now ended its labors in Liberty, Benevolence and Concord.

**C. R.**—Then I declare the Court duly and legally closed.

# FIRST INITIATION CEREMONY.

(Either this or the Second Initiation Ceremony, found on page 87, may be used, at the option of the Court.)

C. R.—Brother Senior Woodward, you will retire to the anteroom and ascertain if there be any Candidates waiting to be initiated; and, if so, report their names in full to the Court.

(The S.W. will then retire, and if there be any candidates, he will, upon returning, report their names in full to the Court.)

C. R.—Thank you, Brother Senior Woodward. If any brother has any valid objection to the admission of *Mr.* ——— into this Court, let him now declare it.

(If an objection be made by any member, the Court must decide at once, without debate, by a majority vote, whether it is valid or not. If the objection be held valid, then the Initiation must be postponed, and the objection duly considered at the same or at the next meeting. If the objection be held not valid, or if no objection be offered, the Initiation will be immediately proceeded with.)

C. R.—No valid objection having been declared, the Past Chief Ranger and the Financial Secretary will retire to the anteroom and see that all the conditions are duly complied with by the *Candidate.*

(The P.C.R. will see that the candidate answers the following questions:)

P. C. R.—Mr. ———, it is my duty to ask you certain preliminary questions, but before doing so I assure you that there is nothing in the Obligation of the Independent Order of Foresters or in its Constitution and Laws which in any way interferes with the religious, political or social rights or duties of its members. Religion we leave to you and your church. Political or Religious discussions are never allowed to enter our Court Rooms. Our aim is simply to

afford each other mutual aid and relief, as well as protection for our loved ones. Having made these explanations, I request you to answer the following questions :

(1) **P. C. R.**—What is your occupation ? You will please describe it fully.

**Candidate**— ——— (The Candidate must give full particulars, stating the exact nature of employment or occupation.)

**P. C. R.**—I have to inform you that this occupation will place you in the —— — Class ; (or, I have to inform you that this occupation is proscribed by our Order, and you cannot be admitted.)

(Persons engaged in the occupations described in Section 134 (1) of the Constitution and Laws of the Order, and persons engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors CANNOT be admitted to membership in the Order.

(2) **P. C. R.**—Are you at the present time under medical treatment of any kind, or taking medicine for any disease or ailment ?

**Candidate.**—I am not.

(3) **P. C. R.**—Are you in good, sound mental and physical health ?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(4) **P. C. R.**—Do you believe in the existence of Almighty God ?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(5) **P. C. R.**—Do you agree to keep inviolate any private work of the Order which may be communicated to you, and that you will be governed and bound by the Constitution and Laws, Rituals, Rules and Usages of the Independent Order of Foresters ?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(6) **P. C. R.**—Do you agree, in the event of your ceasing at any time to be a member of the Order, "in good standing," as defined in the Constitution and Laws of the Order, that all your right, title or claim to, or interest in, any property, funds, privileges or benefits of this Court, or of The Supreme Court, shall thereby terminate and become absolutely null and void?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(7) **P. C. R.**—Are you still willing to become a member of the Order upon the aforementioned terms and conditions, and upon the conditions contained in the Application for Membership and the Medical Examination Paper of the Order?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(The F. S. will then collect the balance, if any, of the Initiation and other Fees; after which the two officers return to the Court Room and report:)

**P.C.R.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate has* answered satisfactorily all the questions. Mr. —— gives his occupation as ——, and I informed him that he would be rated in the —— Class; (or Mr. —— gives his occupation as ——, and I informed him that that occupation is proscribed and he cannot be admitted to membership in the Order.)

(The occupation of each Candidate, if more than one, must be reported, and the Class named in which each will be rated, or, if the occupation is proscribed it must be so reported to the Court, and entered in the minutes by the R.S.)

**F. S.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate has* paid the required fees.

**C. R.**—Thank you, brothers. The Senior and Junior Woodwards will now repair to the ante-room, prepare the *Candidate* for Initiation, and when ready give the proper alarm at the inner door.

(The Woodwards retire and blindfold the Candidate, and bind his wrists together behind his back, and when ready the S.W. will give three loud knocks at the inner door.)

**S. W.**—● ● ●

(The S. B. will then answer by three loud knocks, and open wide the door.)

**S.B.**—● ◐ ● (Opens door.) Brother Senior Woodward, what is the cause of this alarm ?

**S. W.**—While the Junior Woodward and myself were in the outskirts of our Forest, we came upon *a stranger* whom we forthwith captured; and *he informs* us that *he desires* to become *a member* of our Order.

**S. B.**—Brother Senior Woodward, you did well; stay, till I make due report.

(The S. B. then turns to the C. R., leaving the door wide open, and reports as follows:

**S. B.**—Chief Ranger, the Senior and Junior Woodwards have *a Stranger* whom they captured in our Forest, who *is* desirous of becoming *a member* of our Order.

**C. R.**—Brother Senior Beadle, permit the Woodwards to bring the captive *Stranger* within our Court.

**S. B.**—Brothers Senior and Junior Woodwards, by command of the Chief Ranger, the captive *stranger is* permitted to enter our Court.

(The Woodwards then conduct the Candidate to a point immediately in front of the chair of the Junior Woodward, and then halt facing the Chief Ranger.)

**V. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, in obedience to your command, the captive *stranger has* been permitted to enter our Court, and now *stands* before you awaiting your further pleasure.

**C. R.**—Thank you, Vice Chief Ranger. Captive *stranger*, what *is* your *purpose* in seeking admission to this Court of the Independent Order of Foresters?

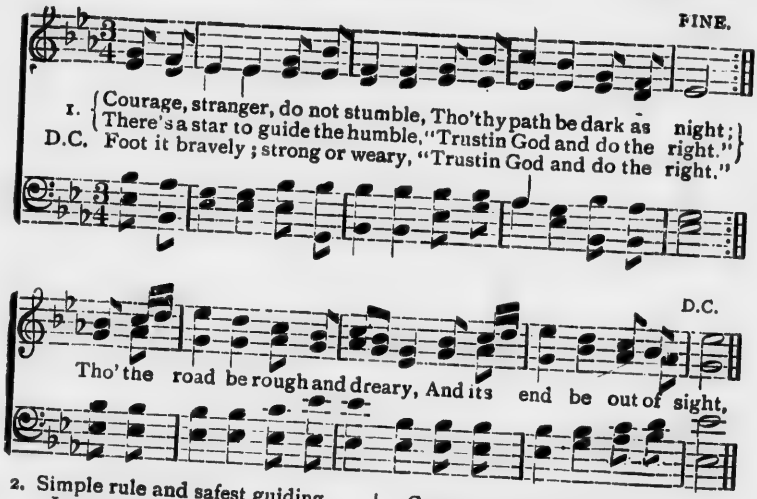
**S. W.**—(Answering for the Candidate.)—Chief Ranger, *this* captive *stranger has* heard of the noble deeds of the INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS, and *comes* before you humbly asking to have *his name* inscribed upon its Honor Roll.

**C. R.**—Brother Senior Woodward, the captive *stranger asks* a great privilege at our hands, and one which cannot be lightly granted. *His* fidelity of purpose must be demonstrated, and the brethren must be satisfied of *his* fitness and worthiness to become *a member* of our great Order. For this purpose let the captive *stranger* pass in review before the entire Court.

● ● ●

(The Candidate will be conducted slowly around the room, wheeling to the left, past the V.C.R., P.C.R., C.R. and Orator, back to the starting point, when he is again halted facing the C.R. While marching around the room one of the following odes will be sung:)

## No. 5. INITIATION ODE. [NETTLETON.




2. Simple rule and safest guiding,
Inward peace and shining light,
Star upon our path abiding,
"Trust in God and do the right."

Courage, stranger, do not waver,
Thou art coming to the light.
Onward ever, failing never,
"Trust in God and do the right."

## No. 6. INITIATION ODE. [WALK IN THE LIGHT.

Walk in the light the Lor lhath giver To guide thy steps a-right His

Ho - ly Spir - it sent from heaven, Can cheer the dark-est night.

*CHORUS.*

Walk..... in the light.....

Walk in the light, in the beau - ti - ful light of God,

Walk..... in the light..... Walk..... in the

Walk in the light, in the beautiful light of God, Walk in the light, in the

light..... Walk in the light, the light of God.

beau-ti - ful light of God Walk in the light, the light of God.

**V. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, the captive *stranger has* travelled the circuit of our Court, and *is* again before you awaiting your further pleasure.

**C. R.**—Thank you, Vice Chief Ranger, I will attend to your presentation; for which purpose I request the *stranger* to pronounce *his name* in full.

(The Candidate does so.)

**C. R.**—Brother Recording Secretary, you have heard the *name; has this stranger* been duly proposed and regularly elected for the great honor *he seeks* at our hands?

(As soon as the C.R. addresses the R.S., the latter will rise in his place and remain standing till he has answered the questions.)

**R. S.**—*He has,* Chief Ranger.

**C. R.**—*Has he* been duly examined by the Court Physician and recommended by him to the Court, on Form No. 59, for beneficiary membership, and have you received that form, or *has he* been accepted by the Medical Board, and *has he* complied with all the requirements of the Constitution and Laws, Rules and Usages of the Order?

(State whether recommended on Form No. 59, or accepted by the Medical Board.)

**R. S.**—*He has,* Chief Ranger.

(If the Candidate has not been examined by the Court Physician or other duly authorized examining Physician and recommended by him to the Court on Form No. 59 for beneficiary membership and that Form has been received by the R.S., or his medical examination has been accepted and passed by the Medical Board, the C.R. must postpone the initiation. The Chief Ranger, or any officer or member acting as Chief Ranger, who administers the Obligation to a Candidate before he has been examined by the Court Physician or other duly authorized examining Physician and recommended by him to the Court, on Form No. 59, for beneficiary membership, and before the said Form No. 59 has been received by the Recording Secretary, or before his medical examination has been accepted and passed by the Medical Board, as the case may be, shall *ipso facto* stand suspended from the Order.)

**C. R.**—Captive *stranger*, your membership in this Order is contingent upon your being in perfect health; therefore it is my duty to inquire: Are you at the present time under medical treatment of any kind, or taking medicine for any disease or ailment?

**Candidate.**—I am not.

**C. R.**—Then I am to understand that you are at the present time in good, sound mental and physical health?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(If the Candidate be under treatment of any kind, or is taking medicine for any disease or ailment, or is otherwise not in perfect health at the time of the initiation, the ceremony must be postponed and all the facts reported to the Secretary of the Medical Board; but if he be in good, sound mental and physical health, the ceremony will be proceeded with as follows:)

**C. R.**—Thank you. The record being found clear, the Woodwards may unloose the captive *stranger's* bonds.

(The J.W. will then unloose the Candidate's bonds.)

**C. R.**—Captive *stranger*, give heed to the solemn words about to be pronounced by our Orator.

● ● ●

**Orator.**—"And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath-day, and hallowed it.

V. Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

**All the Members.**—Amen! Amen! Amen!

● ●

**C. R.**—The Woodwards will present the *Candidate* to the Vice Chief Ranger for instruction.

(The Woodwards will then conduct the Candidate around, wheeling to the left, past the P.C.R., and halt between the C.R. and the pedestal, facing the V.C.R., having the pedestal between them and the V.C.R.)

**S. W.**—Vice Chief Ranger, by command of the Chief Ranger, I present *this Candidate* before you for instruction.

**V. C. R.**—It is my duty to inform you that the Independent Order of Foresters has its chief corner stone resting upon the eternal principle of the "FATHERHOOD OF GOD;" and therefore it is but meet and right that at the very threshold you should have had repeated, in your hearing, the solemn words of the Commandments, given to mankind by God himself, to be a light and guide to all the peoples of the earth, till time shall be no more. In becoming *a Forester*, you will be expected to live in harmony with these Commandments; to be ever patient in adversity, persistent in rectitude of action, and to "do to others as ye would they should do unto you."

Thus assured as to the foundation principle of our Order, are you still willing to proceed?

**Candidate.**—I am.

**V. C. R.**—Woodwards, conduct the *Candidate* to the pedestal for Obligation.

(The Candidate will then be conducted around, wheeling to the left past the Orator, and halted at the pedestal, facing the C.R.)

**V. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, at the pedestal *stands Mr.* ———, *a Candidate* for the privileges and honors of our noble Order. *He has* travelled the circuit of our Court for the second time. *He comes* well and worthily recommended and *awaits* your further pleasure.

**C. R.**—Brethren, assist me to confer the solemn Obligation upon the *Candidate* who *has* been found worthy of fellowship with us in our noble Order.

● ● ●

**C. R.**—Let the "Circle of Concord" be formed.

(The C.R. and brethren will then approach the pedestal, the brethren arranging themselves around it and forming the "Circle of Concord," having the Candidate between the Woodwards on one side of the pedestal, and the C.R., P.C.R. and Orator upon the other side, within the circle. The "Circle of Concord" is formed by each brother crossing his arms in front of himself, the right arm over the left, and grasping the hand of the brother on either side of him. The lights will then be turned low.)

**Orator.**—In the beginning the world was void and without light. Darkness rested upon the face of the deep. "And God said, Let there be light; and there was light."

**C. R.**—Let the *Candidate* be brought to light.

(The Woodwards will then remove the hoodwink.)

**C. R.**—*The* (or "*Each*") Candidate will place his right hand over his heart, raise his left hand, say "I," pronounce his own name in full, and repeat after me

## THE OBLIGATION.

1 I, *(name in full)* | of my own free will and accord, |
2 do most solemnly and sincerely | promise and
3 declare, | that I will never reveal | any word, sign,
4 grip or token, | or any private work of the Inde-
5 pendent Order of Foresters, | which shall now, |
6 or may hereafter, | be communicated to me, | to
7 any one in the world, | unless it be | to a member
8 in good standing in this Order. | I will not repeat
9 outside of the Court Room | any transaction

10 whatsoever | which may take place therein, | un-
11 less I am duly authorized so to do | by the con-
12 stituted authorities of the Order. | I also promise |
13 that I will not wrong a fellow member, | nor see
14 one wronged, | if in my power to prevent it, | and
15 will do all I can | to alleviate the needs, | protect
16 the honor, | and advance the welfare of a member
17 of this Order. | I will bear true allegiance | to the
18 Supreme Court, | and be loyal thereto, | as the
19 supreme authority | of the whole Order; | and
20 will at all times | submit to, | and be governed
21 by, | the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Usages, |
22 which it may enact or establish | from time to
23 time. | I further promise and agree, | that, should
24 I, from any cause, | cease to be a member of the
25 Order, | my obligation of secrecy | shall remain
26 binding and in full force. | For the faithful observ-
27 ance of all these promises | I hereby pledge my
28 sacred honor.

**C. R.**—The Orator will make the invocation.

**Orator.**—O Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent Father, deign to bless the light we now enkindle in the *heart of this* Thy *servant*, so that virtue may increasingly shine around about *him*, and *his heart* be filled with the Divine light of truth, and that the flame of love for our Order may ever burn with unquenchable brightness within *his breast*: and to Thee, O Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, we will ascribe all might, majesty and power, now and forevermore, Amen.

**All the members.—**

Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Glory be to Thy name!

Glory be to Thy great works!

(At the close of each of the above sentences the P.C.R. will flash the "symbolic great light.")

**Orator.**—Glory be to God on High, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.

(The brethren will then resume their places in the Court, leaving the Woodwards and the Candidate at the pedestal.)

**C. R.**—The Woodwards will present the *Candidate* to the Past Chief Ranger to receive further light.

(The Woodwards will conduct the Candidate around, wheeling to the left, past the P.C.R. and C. R., halting between the Orator and the pedestal, facing the P.C.R.)

**S. W.**—Past Chief Ranger, by command of the Chief Ranger, we present the newly obligated *Candidate* that *he* may receive further light.

**P. C. R.**—Having taken upon your*self* our most solemn Obligation, it gives me pleasure to still further advance you on your way. You have already been informed that the foundation principle of the

Order is the "FATHERHOOD OF GOD." As *a Forester*, therefore, you will be expected ever to walk uprightly, as if in the presence of your Heavenly Father. Let it be your constant aim, day by day, to become better and better, to the end that those who may have the privilege of associating with you may be enlightened in mind and elevated in character. Ever remember that you are made in the image of the Creator of the Universe, in whom alone "we live, and move, and have our being." Your duty to your*self* and to your fellow-men is of a threefold character, symbolized by the three flashes of light with which you have been greeted.

FIRST.—That you may glorify your Heavenly Father, it is your duty to constantly strive to achieve your own

## *LIBERTY*

from the slavery of ignorance and vice, and to promote virtue and morality. And I give it to you in the strongest terms of commendation, to diligently seek after the Light which is from on High. Aim to live after the Commandments of your Creator, so that at the latter day you may be prepared for that welcome which shall be given to all those who prove faithful to the end, when it shall be said unto you, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

SECOND.—To visit the sick, relieve the distressed and to bury the dead, is a duty which is not only imposed upon us by our relations to our Heavenly Father, but is enjoined in the Word of God, and positively required in His Laws, for it is written that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." And as the "FATHERHOOD OF GOD" constitutes the chief corner-stone, so the "BROTHERHOOD OF MAN" forms the keystone to the beauteous arch of

## BENEVOLENCE

which, like the rainbow, is the token of the covenant that binds us together in our Fraternity.

THIRD.—As Independent Forestry has for its basis the belief in the existence of God and the consequent immortality of the soul, and for its aim our deliverance from ignorance and vice, and the practice of benevolence, it becomes the imperative duty of us all to promote among our fellow-men brotherly love and

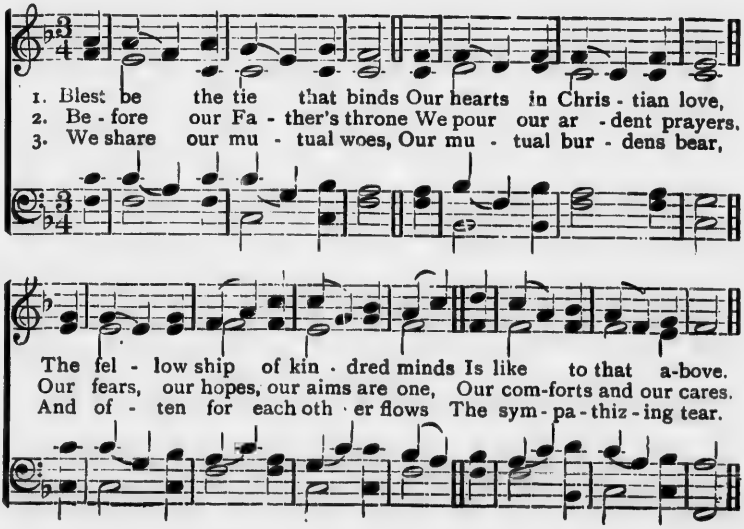
## CONCORD

which is the fraternal chain that links brother to brother in the bonds of Faith in God, who guideth; of Hope, which sustaineth; and of Charity, which blesseth.

You will now be conducted to the chair of the Financial Secretary to have your *name* inscribed upon the Honor Roll of the Independent Order of Foresters; after which you will be presented to the Chief Ranger to receive the final instructions.

(The Woodwards will then conduct the Candidate around, wheeling to the left, past the V.C.R. and P.C.R., to the chair of the F.S., to be enrolled in the Membership Register. After which the Candidate will be conducted to the C.R. for final instructions. While all this is being done, one of the following odes may be sung or played:)

**No. 7.** **ODE.** [DENNIS.



**No. 8.** **ODE.** [LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

1. An - gry words! O! let them never From the tongue un-bri-dled slip;
2. Love is much too pure and ho - ly; Friendship is too sa-cred far,
3. An - gry words are light-ly spoken, Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirr'd

May the heart's best impulse ev-er Check them e'er they soil the lip.
For a mo-ment's reckless fol - ly Thus to des - o - late and mar.
Brightest links of life are brok-en By a sin - gle an-gry word.

CHORUS.

"Love one an - oth - er," thus saith the Saviour, Child-ren, o -

"Love each oth - er." "Love each oth - er,"

*1st Time.* *2nd Time.*

- bey thy Father's blest com-mand. -bey His blest com-mand.

'Tis thy Father's blest com-mand. 'Tis His blest com-mand.

**S. W.**—Chief Ranger, I present to you the newly obligated *Candidate*, who *has* for the third time travelled the circuit of our Court, and now *comes* to you for final instructions.

I will now instruct you in the private work of this Order.

## FIRST SECTION.

The First sign is called the ENTERSIGN and is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The SEA SIGN or SIGN OF DISTRESS is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The WORDS OF DISTRESS are as follows ✱

The TRAVELLING SIGN or SIGN OF RECOGNITION is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The WARNING SIGN AND DANGER SIGNAL are given thus ✱

The VOTING SIGN is given thus ✱

The GRIP is given in this manner ✱

The Gavel in the hands of the Officers conveys a certain meaning to the Court. In the hands of the Chief Ranger, three raps call up the whole Court; two raps seat the Court; one rap calls to order. In the hands of the Vice Chief Ranger one rap calls to order; two raps, in answer to the alarm at the inner door, is an order to the Senior Beadle to attend to the alarm.

## SECOND SECTION.

To enter a Court Room while a Court is in session, proceed as follows:

At the outer door give any usual alarm, such as knocking or ringing the bell, the same as at the door of a neighbor. If required by the officer in charge, give the Permanent Password, or letter it with him as he may wish. The Permanent Password is . This will admit you to the ante-room. There clothe yourself in proper regalia. At the inner door give —— and to the officer in charge give the current Semi-Annual Password, which is - —. This will admit you to the Court Room. Advance to the centre of the room, below the pedestal, and, facing the Chief Ranger, give the Entersign, at the same time saying, "Chief Ranger." He will answer you by giving the Countersign, upon which you will take your seat.

If not in order for you to be admitted at the moment of giving the alarm at the inner door (and it is not in order for you to be admitted during the Opening, closing, or Initiatory Ceremonies), the Senior Beadle will answer your alarm by giving——on the door, in which case it will be your duty to wait; and as soon as the ceremony for which you are thus detained is completed, the Senior Beadle will open the wicket; then you will advance and give the proper Password, and will be admitted to the Court Room.

If you are visiting a sister Court, at the inner door give, in addition to the Semi-Annual Password, your

name, the name and number of your Court and your rank, if any, in the Order.

If you desire to address the Court, rise in your place and give the Entersign, at the same time saying, "Chief Ranger;" and when you have received the Countersign from the Chief Ranger, proceed with your remarks. Whenever you cross the room from one side to the other, unless you are an officer entitled to a seat on the dais, cross below the pedestal, and when in front of the Chief Ranger, turn towards him and give simply the Entersign.

If you desire to retire before the Court has regularly closed, proceed to the saluting point—just below the pedestal—and turn towards the Chief Ranger and give the Entersign, and say, "Chief Ranger, permit me to retire." The Chief Ranger, if it is proper for you to retire then, will answer you with the Countersign, at the same time saying, "Brother Senior Beadle, permit the brother to retire," upon which you will retire without further ceremony.

## THIRD SECTION.

The HONORS to visitors of rank are given as follows, the Court in each case being called up:

TO CHIEF RANGERS AND PAST CHIEF RANGERS. Each member will give the Old Sign of Recognition, thus ✱

TO DEPUTIES OF THE SUPREME CHIEF RANGER AND OF A HIGH CHIEF RANGER. Each member will assume the attitude of Initiation, thus ✱

TO OFFICERS OF A HIGH COURT. The Old Sign

of Recognition and the Entersign are given together, thus ✱

To an OFFICER OF THE SUPREME COURT, other than the Supreme Chief Ranger. Each member will give The Supreme Court Salutation, thus ✱

To the SUPREME CHIEF RANGER. Each member will give the Royal Salute, thus ✱

You have now received the whole of the private work of this Degree.

Woodwards, conduct the *Candidate* to the pedestal for the final ceremony.

Brethren, let the "Circle of Concord" be formed.

● ● ●

(The Candidate, Woodwards, C.R., P.C.R. and Orator will take the same positions they occupied during the "Obligation," the brethren forming the "Circle of Concord" around them.)

C. R.—*Brother!* I am now authorized to address you by that term, and in the name of

LIBERTY, BENEVOLENCE AND CONCORD

I bid you welcome into our noble Order. You have bound your*self* to us by a tie which all upright men reverence and respect, and a violation of which will carry with it its own punishment. It becomes you, therefore, from the present hour, to honor our principles by an unblemished course of life, honorable dealing, and conscientious uprightness, whereby you will reflect credit upon your own *character* as *a man*

and add to the dignity and stability of an Order with whose progress and prosperity your own interests are now identified. I present you *a copy* of the

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE ORDER.

Study well their provisions, for you will find that not only your duties to the Brotherhood, but your rights and privileges in the Order are therein clearly set forth.

**C. R.**—And now by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws, I proclaim you *a Forester*, and entitled to the full protection and all the benefits given by the Independent Order of Foresters. Brethren, I request you to join with me in extending a cordial greeting to our newly initiated *brother*.

# SECOND INITIATION CEREMONY.

(Either this or the First Initiation Ceremony, found on page 64, may be used, at the option of the Court.)

**C. R.**—Brother Senior Woodward, you will retire to the ante-room and ascertain if there be any Candidates waiting to be initiated; and, if so, report their names in full to the Court.

(The S.W. will then retire, and if there be any candidates, he will, upon returning, report their names in full to the Court.)

**C. R.**—Thank you, Brother Senior Woodward. If any brother has any valid objection to the admission of *Mr.* ——— into this Court, let him now declare it.

(If an objection be made by any member, the Court must decide at once, without debate, by a majority vote, whether it is valid or not. If the objection be held valid, then the Initiation must be postponed, and the objection duly considered at the same or at the next meeting. If the objection be held not valid, or if no objection be offered, the Initiation will be immediately proceeded with.)

**C. R.**—No valid objection having been declared, the Past Chief Ranger and the Financial Secretary will retire to the ante-room and see that all the conditions are duly complied with by the *Candidate.*

(The P.C.R. will see that the candidate answers the following questions:)

**P. C. R.**—Mr. ———, it is my duty to ask you certain preliminary questions, but before doing so I assure you that there is nothing in the Obligation of the Independent Order of Foresters or in its Constitution and Laws which in any way interferes with the religious, political or social rights or duties of its members. Religion we leave to you and your church. Political or Religious discussions are never allowed to enter our Court Rooms. Our aim is simply to

afford each other mutual aid and relief, as well as protection for our loved ones. Having made these explanations, I request you to answer the following questions:

(1) **P. C. R.**—What is your occupation? You will please describe it fully.

**Candidate**— ——— (The Candidate must give full particulars, stating the exact nature of employment or occupation.)

**P. C. R.**—I have to inform you that this occupation will place you in the —— — Class; (or, I have to inform you that this occupation is proscribed by our Order, and you cannot be admitted.)

(Persons engaged in the occupations described in Section 134 (1) of the Constitution and Laws of the Order, and persons engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors CANNOT be admitted to membership in the Order.)

(2) **P. C. R.**—Are you at the present time under medical treatment of any kind, or taking medicine for any disease or ailment?

**Candidate.**—I am not.

(3) **P. C. R.**—Are you in good, sound mental and physical health?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(4) **P. C. R.**—Do you believe in the existence of Almighty God?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(5) **P. C. R.**—Do you agree to keep inviolate any private work of the Order which may be communicated to you, and that you will be governed and bound by the Constitution and Laws, Rituals, Rules and Usages of the Independent Order of Foresters?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(6) **P. C. R.**—Do you promise and agree that you will not write nor indite the passwords or other private work of the Order, nor permit it to be done by another if within your power to prevent it?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(7) **P. C. R.**—Do you agree, in the event of your ceasing at any time to be a member of the Order, "in good standing," as defined in the Constitution and Laws of the Order, that all your right, title or claim to, or interest in, any property, funds, privileges or benefits of this Court, or of The Supreme Court, shall thereby terminate and become absolutely null and void?

**Candidate.**—I do.

(8) **P. C. R.**—Are you still willing to become a member of the Order upon the aforementioned terms and conditions, and upon the conditions contained in the Application for Membership and the Medical Examination Paper of the Order?

**Candidate.**—I am.

(The F. S. will then collect the balance, if any, of the Initiation and other Fees; after which the two officers return to the Court Room and report:)

**P.C.R.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate has* answered satisfactorily all the questions. Mr. —— gives his occupation as ——, and I informed him that he would be rated in the —— Class; (or Mr. —— gives his occupation as ——, and I informed him that that occupation is proscribed and he cannot be admitted to membership in the Order.)

(The occupation of each Candidate, if more than one, must be reported, and the Class named in which each will be rated, or, if the occupation is proscribed it must be so reported to the Court, and entered in the minutes by the R.S.)

**F. S.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate has* paid the required fees.

**C. R.**—Thank you, brothers. The Senior and Junior Woodwards will now repair to the ante-room, and introduce the *Candidate.*

(In the ante-room the S.W. will instruct the Candidates to follow him in single file; the J.W. will bring up the rear. When everything is in readiness the S.W. will give three loud raps at the inner door.)

**S. B.**—(Opens wicket and then reports.) Chief Ranger, the Woodwards, accompanied by the *Candidate*, desire admission to our Court Room.

**C. R.**—Admit them.

(The S. B. will open wide the door.)

**S. B.**—Brothers Woodwards, by command of the Chief Ranger, the *Candidate is* permitted to enter our Court Room.

(The Woodwards will conduct the Candidates once around the Court Room, wheeling to the left, past the stations of the V.C.R., P.C.R., C.R. and Orator, in the order named, finally stopping in front of the V.C.R.'s station in a line or semi-circle, the S.W. at the left and the J.W. at the right of the line. A slow march may be played low, so as not to drown the voice of the Orator, who, during the march, will slowly and distinctly repeat or read several or all of the following passages :)

**Orator.**—(1) "For we are born at all adventure; and we shall be hereafter as though we had never been; for the breath in our nostrils is a smoke, and a little spark in the moving of our heart;

Which being extinguished, our body shall be turned to ashes, and our spirit shall vanish as the soft air.

For our time is a very shadow that passeth away; and after our end there is no returning; for it is fast sealed, so that no man cometh again.

(2) I myself am a mortal man, like to all, and the offspring of him that was first made of the earth;

And when I was born, I drew in the common air, and fell upon the earth, which is of like nature, and the first voice which I uttered was crying, as all others do.

I was nursed in swaddling-clothes, and that with cares.

For there is no king that had any other beginning of birth.

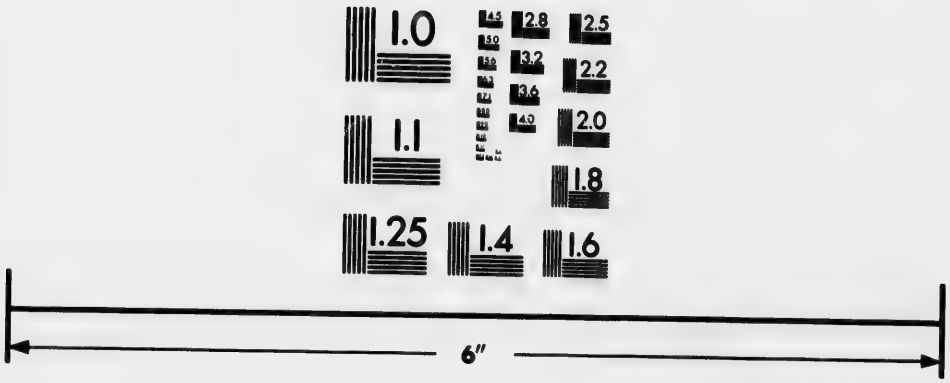
For all men have one entrance into life, and the like going out.

(3) For the potter, tempering soft earth, fashioneth every vessel with much labour for our service; yea, of the same clay he maketh both the vessels that serve for clean uses, and likewise also all such as serve to the contrary: but what is the use of either sort, the potter himself is the judge.

And employing his labors lewdly, he maketh a vain god of the same clay, even he which a little before was made of earth himself, and within a little while after returneth to the same, out of the which he was taken, when his life which was lent him shall be demanded. * * * *

For they counted all the idols of the heathen to be gods; which neither have the use of eyes to see, nor noses to draw breath, nor ears to hear, nor fingers of

**IMAGE EVALUATION**
**TEST TARGET (MT-3)**

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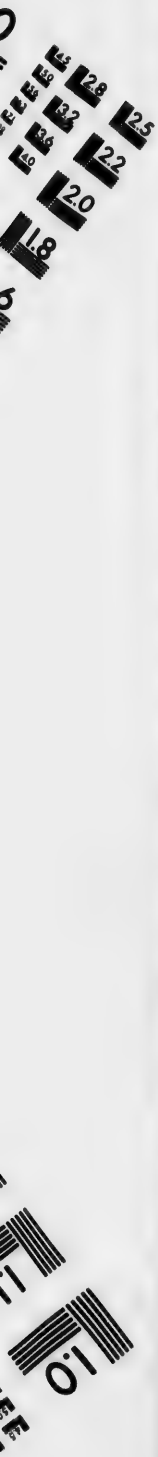
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hands to handle; and as for their feet they are slow to go.

For man made them, and he that borrowed his own spirit fashioned them: but no man can make a god like unto himself.

**S. W.**—Vice Chief Ranger, I present to you the *Candidate.*

V. C. R.—My *Friend*, passages from sacred writings of antiquity have been repeated in your hearing for the purpose of impressing upon you the fact that no artificial distinctions of sect, nationality or race are recognized in this Order.

While all peoples have sprung from a common ancestry, there are recognized distinctions in them arising from accident of birth, mental attainments or social environments. Some, alas! have fallen so low in the scale of humanity, and their depravity is so great, it is not expedient that we associate with them; this does not prevent us from extending to them a helping hand, but should rather prompt us so to do that we may raise them up and make them better, if possible. Only those, however, that are regarded as meet associates are admitted to membership in this Order, and once admitted, all stand upon one common level, and are alike entitled to equal consideration and regard. We take as the standard of our actions the Golden Rule—"Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you." The lessons of this Order are ethical, not religious, and are aimed at helping us to conduct ourselves honorably, prudently and industriously through life.

You will now be conducted to the Pedestal there to take upon *yourself* the obligation of the Order.

(The Candidates will again be conducted around the Court-room, wheeling to the left, past the stations of the P.C.R., C.R. and Orator, in the order named, finally stopping in front of the V.C.R.'s station in a line or semi-circle just below the Pedestal, facing the C.R., the S.W. at the right and the J.W. at the left of the line. A slow march may be played low, so as not to drown the voice of the Orator, who, during the march, will repeat or read slowly and distinctly several or all of the following passages, making a short pause between each passage :)

**Orator.**—(1) "Laugh no man to scorn in the bitterness of his soul : neither do the like to thy friend.

Devise not a lie against thy brother : neither do the like to thy friend.

Use not to make any manner of lie : for the custom thereof is not good.

Change not a friend for any good, by no means ; neither a faithful brother for the gold of Ophir.

And stretch thy hand unto the poor, that thy blessing may be perfected.

Fail not to be with them that weep, and mourn with them that mourn.

Be not slow to visit the sick ; for that shall make thee to be loved.

(2) Forsake not an old friend ; for the new is not one comparable to him ; a new friend is as new wine ; when it is old thou shalt drink it with pleasure.

A friend cannot be known in prosperity ; and an enemy cannot be hid in adversity.

(3) He that can rule his tongue shall live without strife; and he that hateth babbling shall have less evil.

Rehearse not unto another that which is told unto thee, and thou shalt fare never the worse.

Whether it be to a friend or foe, talk not of other men's lives; and if thou canst without offence, reveal them not.

If thou hast heard a word, let it die with thee; and be bold, it will not burst thee.

(4) Admonish a friend, it may be he hath not done it; and if he have done it, that he do it no more.

Admonish thy friend, it may be he hath not said it; and if he have, that he speak it not again.

Admonish a friend; for many times it is a slander, and believe not every tale.

Admonish thy neighbor before thou threaten [illegible]; and be not angry, give place to the law of the Most High.

The knowledge of the commandments of the Lord is the doctrine of life; and they that do things that please Him shall receive the fruit of the tree of immortality."

**S. W.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate* is at the Pedestal to take the obligation.

● ● ●

(C. R. advances to the pedestal.)

**C. R.**—My *Friend*, membership in this Order is entirely voluntary. Its foundation principles are: A

belief in God, the Creator of us all; to cherish and protect each other in every laudable purpose and undertaking; to care for the sick and needy; to visit the widows and orphans in their affliction; and to constrain no one's political or religious convictions.

Thus you see the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man are the foundations of our Order; and the Golden Rule is the standard of our actions.

Before proceeding further you will be required to take upon *yourself* a solemn and binding obligation, such as all members of the Independent Order of Foresters have taken, to be faithful and true to the principles of the Order, and to keep inviolate the private work which may be communicated to you. The obligation, I am free to inform you, contains nothing that will in any way conflict with any duty you owe to God, your country, your neighbor, or to those near and dear to you.

With this assurance, if you are willing to proceed, (each of) you will place your right hand over your heart, as a token of your sincerity, raise your left hand, pronounce your own name in full, and repeat after me

## THE OBLIGATION.

1 I, *(name in full)* | of my own free will and accord, |
2 do most solemnly and sincerely | promise and
3 declare, | that I will never reveal | any word, sign,
4 grip or token, | or any private work of the Inde-
5 pendent Order of Foresters, | which shall now, |

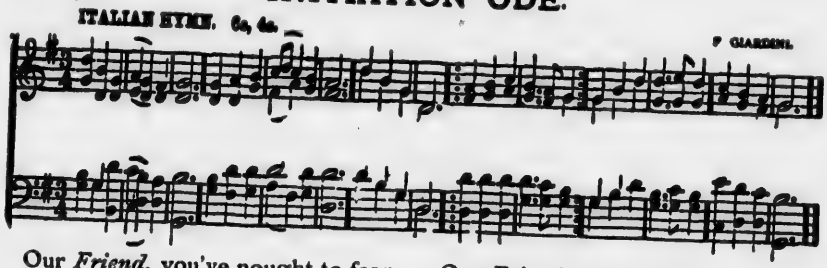
6 or may hereafter, | be communicated to me, | to
7 any one in the world, | unless it be | to a member
8 in good standing in this Order. | I will not repeat
9 outside of the Court Room | any transaction
10 whatsoever | which may take place therein, | un-
11 less I am duly authorized so to do | by the con-
12 stituted authorities of the Order. | I also promise |
13 that I will not wrong a fellow member, | nor see
14 one wronged, | if in my power to prevent it, | and
15 will do all I can | to alleviate the needs, | protect
16 the honor, | and advance the welfare of a member
17 of this Order. | I will bear true allegiance | to The
18 Supreme Court, | and be loyal thereto, | as the
19 supreme authority | of the whole Order; | and
20 will at all times | submit to, | and be governed
21 by, | the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Usages, |
22 which it may enact or establish | from time to
23 time. | I further promise and agree, | that, should
24 I, from any cause, | cease to be a member of the
25 Order, | my obligation of secrecy | shall remain
26 binding and in full force. | For the faithful observ-
27 ance of all these promises | I hereby pledge my
28 sacred honor.

C. R.—The Woodwards will conduct the *Initiate* to the Past Chief Ranger, who will further instruct *him* in the principles of the Order.

Brethren, we will sing initiatory ode number nine.

(During the singing the Candidates will be conducted around, wheeling to the left, past the P.C.R. and C.R., and halted in a line between the Orator's station and the pedestal facing the P.C.R.)

## No. 9. INITIATION ODE.




Our *Friend*, you've nought to fear,
For Honor's Court is here—
True Brotherhood.
Here in good faith we meet;
Here friends and strangers greet,
And in communion sweet
The hours enjoy.

Our *Friend*, amid a band,
Of Brothers now you stand—
True Foresters.
Here honor's power is shown;
Here love and truth are known,
And here within their home
We welcome you.

**P. C. R.**—My *Friend*, having pledged *yourself* to be faithful and true to the principles of the Independent Order of Foresters, it is my duty to inform you that these principles have been embodied in three words, which constitutes the motto of the Order. These symbolic words which all Foresters highly prize are

LIBERTY, BENEVOLENCE AND CONCORD.

### LIBERTY,

the first word of the motto, symbolizes to all Foresters that "Brotherhood of Man," which is inculcated in this Order. This principle constrains us to do to others as we would have them do to us, and teaches us to accord to our Brethren the rights and privileges we desire for ourselves. This word, therefore, should remind us that if our brother holds views differing from ours, he is not to be discredited on that account,

because by so doing we should be denying to him the Liberty we claim for ourselves, thereby dishonoring ourselves in the eyes of those who love justice and equity in all things.

**BENEVOLENCE,**

the second word of the motto, represents one of the attributes of God Himself. This virtue constrains us to desire the well-being and happiness of our fellow-men; teaches us to love our brethren as ourselves; brings to our remembrance that there are other beings as dear to the Creator as ourselves, and impels us to seek no gratification that has the remotest tendency to prove injurious or detrimental to others. The very thought of doing good is heaven-born; its practice ennobles our natures, and its name, Benevolence, forms a fitting keystone to our motto.

**CONCORD,**

the third and last word appropriately completes our triune motto, and makes it perfect in all its parts. For to love our Heavenly Father with all our hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves, and to do unto others as we would they should do unto us, is the fulfilment of the Law. The observance of this law will beget peace and harmony in our intercourse; secure Concord in our purposes and actions; insure helpfulness and happiness in our lives and the ultimate triumph of the principles of our Order throughout the world.

You will now be conducted to the Chief Ranger for final instructions.

(The Candidates will now be escorted to, and halted in front of the C.R.'s station.)

**S. W.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate* is before you awaiting your further pleasure.

**C. R.**—The instructions of our Vice Chief Ranger and Past Chief Ranger, and the lessons contained in the passages of sacred writings which have been read in your hearing, are worthy of your earnest consideration, and should be interwoven with your every-day life. From the attention you have given to our ceremony, I doubt not that your obligation will ever be held sacred by you, and that the principles of the Order as expressed in our motto, Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, will always form the mainspring of all your acts.

(If the TEST is to be applied, continue the ceremony as follows: If it is not to be used, then omit everything between the heavy line below and that on page 102.)

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**C. R.**—I will now entrust you with the "trial pass," after which you will accompany the Woodwards to the desk of the Recording Secretary, to whom you will furnish the proper information required to have your name inscribed upon the pages of our Honor Roll. *(Gives the "trial pass.")*

(The "trial pass" is any word selected by C.R. at the time, and to be given only when the test is intended to be applied.)

**C. R.**—Woodwards, conduct the Initiate [*or* the Initiates one by one] to the desk of the Recording Secretary.

**S. W.**—Brother Recording Secretary, by command of the Chief Ranger, I present to you this Initiate who is prepared to prove his worthiness to

have his name inscribed upon the pages of our Honor Roll.

**R. S.**—It will give me great pleasure to certify to the worthiness of the Initiate. For which purpose I will ask him to properly fill in this form.

(If there be more than one candidate, the R.S. will require them to fill in the blanks in the "Test Form," one after the other. As each one passes the Test, he will be requested to stand aside and the next one tested till all have passed, or till one fails. If all pass, the R.S. will report as follows :)

**R. S.**—Chief Ranger, it gives me pleasure to report that *this Initiate has* proved *himself* worthy to have *his name* inscribed on the pages of our Honor Roll.

**C. R.**—Thank you, Recording Secretary. Woodwards, conduct the *Initiate* to the Financial Secretary so that *his name* may be inscribed upon our Honor Roll, after which you will present *him* before me for final instructions.

**S. W.**—Brother Financial Secretary, by command of the Chief Ranger I present *this Initiate* who *has* proved *himself* worthy to have his name inscribed on the pages of our Honor Roll.

(The Financial Secretary will then enter the name or names in the Roll of Members of the Court. If any candidate should fail in passing the Test he will be immediately reported as follows :)

**S. W.**—Chief Ranger, the Candidate has violated his promise by attempting to write the password, and, no doubt, would have written it in full had I not prevented him.

[*(Or if the S. W. wrote, the J. W. should report as follows :)* Chief Ranger, the Candidate has violated

his promise by permitting the Senior Woodward to write the password.]

C. R.—*(Sternly)* Woodwards, bring the offender before me.

(Woodwards seize the Candidate and lead him roughly to the C.R.'s station.)

C. R.—Sir ! I am amazed that you should so soon have forgotten your solemn promise, given in the ante-room to our Past Chief Ranger, that you would "not write nor indite the passwords or other private work of the Order, nor permit it to be done by another if within your power to prevent it," and yet, inside an hour you have apparently wholly forgotten this solemn undertaking with us. You will be seated while the Court determines your case.

(To the Court.)

Brethren ! What shall be done with this man who has thus proved himself unworthy to be called a Forester ?

(After the Court has determined the matter the Candidate will again be presented before the Chief Ranger by the Woodwards.)

C. R.—The Woodwards will present Mr.——before me.

S. W.—Chief Ranger, Mr. —— is again before you awaiting your further pleasure.

C. R.—Mr. ——, you have been subjected to the Test, not that we had any doubt as to your integrity and discretion, but to impress upon your mind and upon the minds of all present, the paramount importance of ever keeping a watchful guard upon your actions, and to emphasize the fact that a Forester's

word should always be as good as his bond, and once given in pledge, even in respect to trivial matters, it should be fulfilled to the letter.

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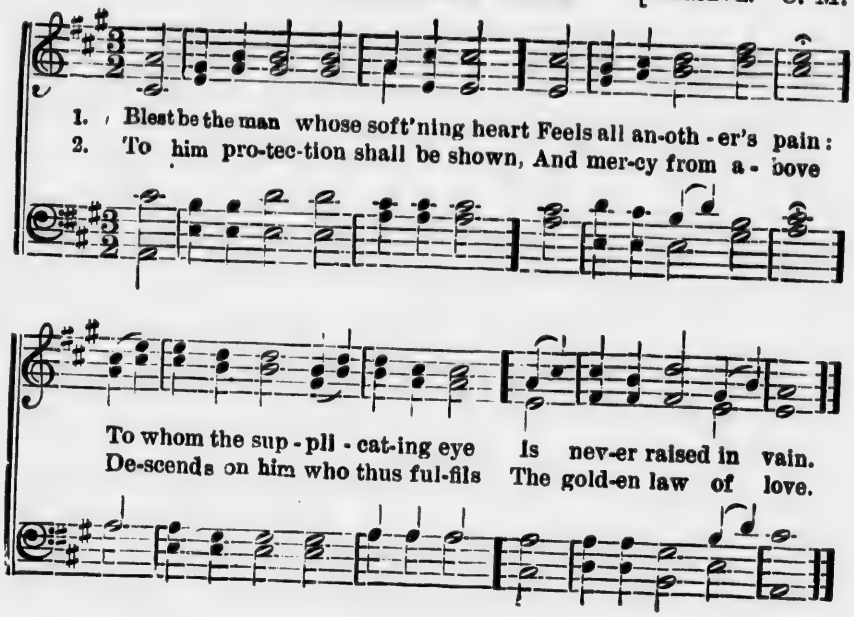
**C. R.**—The Woodwards will now conduct the *Initiate* to the Financial Secretary to have *his* name inscribed upon the pages of our Honor Roll, after which they will present *him* before me for final instructions.

(While the names are being enrolled Ode No. 10 may be sung. The Ode may be omitted at the discretion of the C.R.)

**C. R.**—Brethren, we will sing Initiatory Ode, number ten.

**No. 10.** **INITIATORY ODE.** [BELIEVE. C. M.



(After the names are enrolled, the Candidates will again be arranged in front of the C.R.'s station.)

**S. W.**—Chief Ranger, the *Candidate is* again before you for further instruction.

**C. R.**—My *Friend*, you will please pay strict attention while I instruct you in the private work of the Order.

(The C.R. then instructs the Candidate in the private work.)

## FIRST SECTION.

The First sign is called the ENTERSIGN and is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The SEA SIGN or SIGN OF DISTRESS is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The WORDS OF DISTRESS are as follows ✱

The TRAVELLING SIGN or SIGN OF RECOGNITION is given thus ✱

The COUNTERSIGN, or answer to it, is given thus ✱

The WARNING SIGN AND DANGER SIGNAL are given thus ✱

The VOTING SIGN is given thus ✱

The GRIP is given in this manner ✱

The Gavel in the hands of the Officers conveys a certain meaning to the Court. In the hands of the Chief Ranger, three raps call up the whole Court; two raps seat the Court; one rap calls to order. In the hands of the Vice Chief Ranger one rap calls to order; two raps, in answer to the alarm at the inner door, is an order to the Senior Beadle to attend to the alarm.

## SECOND SECTION.

To enter a Court Room while a Court is in session, proceed as follows:

At the outer door give any usual alarm, such as knocking or ringing the bell, the same as at the door of a neighbor. If required by the officer in charge, give the Permanent Password, or letter it with him as he may wish. The Permanent Password is——. This will admit you to the ante-room. There clothe yourself in proper regalia. At the inner door give —— and to the officer in charge give the current Semi-Annual Password, which is ——. This will admit you to the Court Room. Advance to the centre of the room, below the pedestal, and facing the Chief Ranger, give the Entersign, at the same time saying, "Chief Ranger." He will answer you by giving the Countersign, upon which you will take your seat.

If not in order for you to be admitted at the moment of giving the alarm at the inner door (and it is not in order for you to be admitted during the Opening, Closing, or Initiatory Ceremonies), the Senior Beadle will answer your alarm by giving—— on the door, in which case it will be your duty to wait; and as soon as the Ceremony for which you are thus detained is completed, the Senior Beadle will open the wicket; then you will advance and give the proper Password, and will be admitted to the Court Room.

If you are visiting a sister Court, at the inner door give, in addition to the Semi-Annual Password, your

name, the name and number of your Court and your rank, if any, in the Order.

If you desire to address the Court, rise in your place and give the Entersign, at the same time saying, "Chief Ranger;" and, when you have received the Countersign from the Chief Ranger, proceed with your remarks. Whenever you cross the room from one side to the other, unless you are an officer entitled to a seat on the dais, cross below the pedestal, and when in front of the Chief Ranger, turn towards him and give simply the Entersign.

If you desire to retire, before the Court has regularly closed, proceed to the saluting point—just below the pedestal—and turn towards the Chief Ranger and give the Entersign, and say, "Chief Ranger, permit me to retire." The Chief Ranger, if it is proper for you to retire then, will answer you with the Countersign, at the same time saying, "Brother Senior Beadle, permit the brother to retire," upon which you will retire without further ceremony.

## THIRD SECTION.

The Honors to visitors of rank are given as follows, the Court in each case being called up:

To Chief Rangers and Past Chief Rangers. Each member will give the Old Sign of Recognition, thus ✱

To Deputies of the Supreme Chief Ranger and of a High Chief Ranger. Each member will assume the attitude of Initiation, thus ✱

To Officers of a High Court. The Old Sign of Recognition and the Entersign are given together, thus ✱

To an Officer of the Supreme Court, other than the Supreme Chief Ranger. Each member will give The Supreme Court Salutation, thus ✱

To the Supreme Chief Ranger. Each member will give the Royal Salute, thus ✱

You have now received the whole of the private work of this Degree.

● ● ●

C. R.—This concludes the ceremony of initiation, and in the name of

Liberty, Benevolence and Concord

I bid you welcome into our noble Order. You have bound your*self* to us by a tie which all upright persons reverence and respect, and a violation of which will carry with it its own punishment. It becomes you, therefore, from the present hour, to honor our principles by an unblemished course of life, honorable dealing, and conscientious uprightness, whereby you will reflect credit upon your own *character* as *a man*, and add to the dignity and stability of an Order with whose progress and prosperity your own interests are now identified. I present you *a copy* of the

Constitution and Laws of the Order.

Study well their provisions, for you will find that not only your duties to the Brotherhood, but your rights and privileges in the Order are therein clearly set forth.

I am now authorized to address you by the term, Brother; and by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Order, I proclaim you *a Forester*, and entitled to the full protection and all the benefits given by the Independent Order of Foresters. Brethren, I ask you to join with me in extending a cordial greeting to our newly initiated *brother*.

# DEDICATION CEREMONY.

(If the ceremony is to be performed in secret session, the Court will be opened in due form, and the Supreme or High officers will be received with the regular honors; if a public Dedication, the meeting will be simply called to order, when the officers will take their stations, the honors being omitted. The Supreme or High officers, in proper regalia, will assemble in the ante-room, and when ready the S. M. or H. M. will give the usual alarm.)

S. M.—● ● ●

S. B.—Chief Ranger, there is an alarm at the inner door.

C. R.—Ascertain the cause of the alarm, and report to me forthwith.

(The S.B. opens the wicket, ascertains the cause, and reports as follows:)

S. B.—Chief Ranger, I have to report that the alarm was caused by the Supreme Marshal demanding admittance for the Supreme Chief Ranger and his officers.

C. R.—Admit the distinguished brethren in the name of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord.

S. B.—(Throws Door wide open.) Enter in the name of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord.

● ● ●

(The Supreme or High Officers will pass to the centre of the room and stand facing the chair; if in secret session, the honors will be given.)

C. R.—Respected Supreme Chief Ranger and officers of The Supreme Court, in behalf of the

brotherhood, I welcome you to our Forest Home, and request that you will occupy the places of honor in the Court.

(The officers of the Court then vacate their stations, and the Supreme or High officers take them. The C.R. will deposit the keys of the hall on the pedestal, and take a seat on the left of the chair. The S.C.R. or H.C.R. will then appoint four brothers, recommended by the C.R. as S. or H. Heralds. The S. or H. Heralds will wear blue sashes; and will take their stations, the S.H. of the East about eight feet in front of the C.R.'s chair, the S.H. of the West the same distance in front of the V.C.R.'s chair, the S.H. of the North the same distance in front of the Orator's chair, and the S.H. of the South the same distance in front of the P.C.R.'s chair. As each Herald is about to make the Proclamation of Dedication he will light the "symbolic great light" [made of salt, profusely sprinkled with alcohol], placed on the pedestal in front of each Herald. The pedestals are to be covered with blue cloth).

**C.R.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, we have met you here to announce that this Temple of Charity is finished, and that it is the request of the brotherhood that it be set apart and dedicated to the purposes and uses of Forestry. I place in your hands the keys of our Forest Home.

**S.C.R.**—Chief Ranger, officers and brethren of Court ——, No. —, I accept this hall for dedication to the purposes and uses of Forestry. I congratulate you and the members of our Order upon having so comfortable a Forest Home. Here you are to meet to perform those sacred duties incumbent upon all worthy Foresters; to seek to elevate each other in all the virtues of true manhood by cultivating friendship, social feeling and benevolence. Here you will inculcate upon all the grand principles of our noble Order, that they may go hence better fitted to carry them out, by visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead, protecting the

widows and educating the orphans. May the God of love, peace and charity aid you in this laudable undertaking, and may this Temple of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord long stand as a monument of your handiwork.

**Brethren.**—So mote it be.

**S. C. R.**—Supreme Marshal, it is my pleasure that this Forest Home shall now be dedicated to Independent Forestry, and that you make proclamation of the same.

**S. M.**—By command of the Supreme Chief Ranger I proclaim that it is his will and pleasure that this Forest Home be now dedicated to the high and noble purposes of Independent Forestry.

● ● ●

**S. C. R.**—The Supreme Orator will invoke the Divine favor on what we are about to do.

## PRAYER.

**S. Orator.**—Great and Merciful Father, direct us in all our ways, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name. Grant that this Temple of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, about to be dedicated to the purposes of Independent Forestry, may remain as an enduring monument of Thy goodness and mercy, and that charity and good works may go out from its sacred walls to bless humanity, and magnify Thy holy name, now and for evermore.

**Brethren.**—Amen.

● ●

**S. V. C. R.**—

When constant Faith and sacred Hope shall die,
One lost in certainty, and one in joy,
Then thou, more happy power, fair Charity!
Triumphant sister, greatest of the three,
Thy office and thy nature still the same,
Lasting thy lamp and unconsumed thy flame,
Shall stand before the host of heaven confessed,
Forever blessing, and forever blessed.
Lord, to Thee we dedicate this sacred Hall,
And humbly ask upon us blessings all.

**S. C. R.**—By the authority of the Supreme Court and in the name of the Independent Order of Foresters, I hereby dedicate this Temple to the principles of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, and to works of charity; may peace, harmony and good-will towards men ever reign within these walls.

**Brethren.**—So mote it be.

**S. C. R.**—Supreme Marshal, you have my command to make due proclamation of the Dedication of this Hall.

(The S.M. will stand in front of the Chair, facing the S. V. C. R., and make due proclamation).

**S. M.**—Hear ye, all men! By command of the Supreme Chief Ranger, I proclaim this Temple duly and legally dedicated to Independent Forestry. In the name of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, let this proclamation be repeated in the East and in the West, in the North and in the South.

**S. H. of the East.**—Hear ye, all men! By command of the Supreme Chief Ranger, I proclaim this Temple of Charity duly and legally dedicated.

**S. H. of the West.**—Hear ye, all men! By command of the Supreme Chief Ranger, I proclaim this Forest Home duly and legally dedicated.

**S. H. of the North.**—Hear ye, all men! By command of the Supreme Chief Ranger, I proclaim this Temple of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord duly and legally dedicated.

**S. H. of the South.**—Hear ye, all men! By command of the Supreme Chief Ranger, and in the name of the Independent Order of Foresters, I proclaim the due dedication of this Sacred Temple of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, to the purposes and uses of Independent Forestry; and to God be all the glory and praise now and evermore.

**Brethren.**—So mote it be.

● ● ●

**S. C. R.**—The Supreme Orator will invoke the blessing of Heaven on our proceedings.

## PRAYER.

**S. Orator.**—We humbly beseech Thee, O Merciful God, to bless this Temple which has been so earnestly dedicated to the principles of Forestry; endow each and all of us with a competency of Thy Divine wisdom, that through the principles of the Order, and by Thine aid, we may the better be enabled to display virtue, charity and holiness, to the honor and glory of Thy name. Amen.

● ●

**S. C. R.**—Chief Ranger, officers and brethren of Court——, No. —, I now return to your possession this Temple, dedicated to Independent Forestry, and may you ever labor in the principles of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, and may the blessing of Heaven ever rest upon you and all your works of charity.

**Brethren.**—So mote it be.

(The S.C.R. then returns the keys of the hall to the C.R.)

# ANNIVERSARY SERVICE.

(In the absence of the Supreme or High Officers, the C.R. will preside, and whether public or private all the officers will be in their proper places. The C.R. will appoint a good reader as Herald.)

●

C. R.—My brethren, we have assembled on this auspicious occasion to commemorate the founding of our noble Order. On the 17th of June, A.D. 1874, in the city of Newark, New Jersey, at a convention of the Ancient Foresters there assembled, the Independent Order of Foresters was brought into existence. The foundation then laid, though crude indeed, was destined to be developed into a grand and noble structure. On the 1st of July, A.D. 1881, in the city of Ottawa, Canada, was reared the present Temple, symmetrical and perfect in all its parts, and which will continue to bless humanity to the remotest time. Already thousands of our fellowmen have been benefitted by the Independent Order of Foresters, and we have just reason to hope that generations yet unborn will sing the praises of our noble Order and its grand principles.

● ● ●

C. R.—The Orator will invoke the favor of Heaven upon our present assembly.

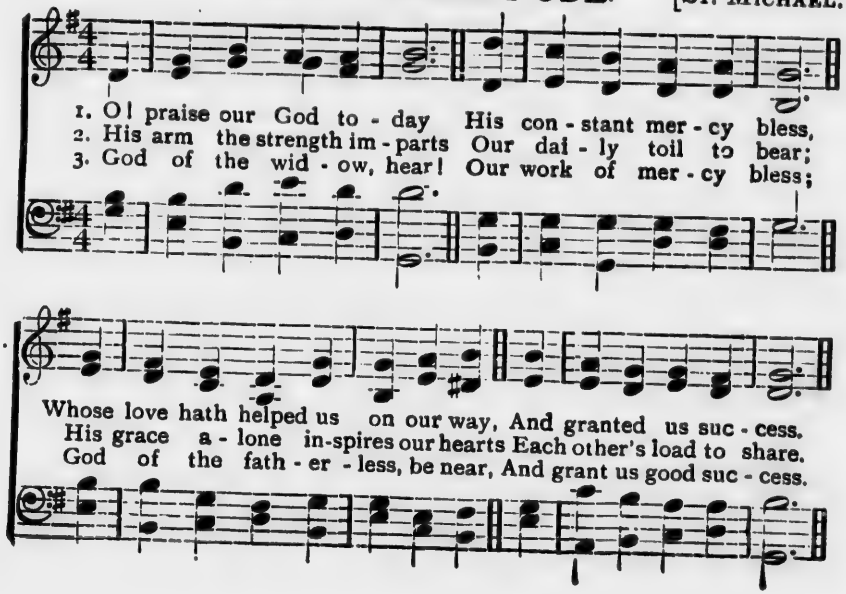
## PRAYER.

**Orator.**—Great and Merciful God, we once more assemble in Thy holy name to offer up thanks to Thee for the many blessings Thou hast showered upon our noble Order. Thou hast been our guide, our strength, our wisdom; and upon Thee have we leaned, and not in vain, for all our prosperity. Thou hast favored us in all our undertakings, and our expectations have been more than realized. Prosper and direct us still in the cause of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, and to Thee, O Father, be all the praise and glory now and for evermore.

**Brethren.**—Amen.

**C. R.**—The brethren will sing the anniversary ode.

**No. 11.** **ANNIVERSARY ODE.** [ST. MICHAEL.



C. R.—The Herald will read the proclamation of the Supreme *(or High)* Chief Ranger.

(The Herald will then read the Proclamation.)

C. R.—Vice Chief Ranger, what are the principles of the Independent Order of Foresters?

(The officers will rise as they respond.)

V. C. R.—Independent Forestry is a benevolent Order, based upon the broadest principles of mutual aid and fraternal intercourse in all the social and business relations of life. Its grand object is to unite in one true brotherhood all good men, without regard to sectarian creeds, political dogmas, or conditions in life; to provide for relief in sickness or disability; to establish, upon the mutual aid plan, a fund for the relief of widows and orphans of deceased members; to foster a spirit of co-operation in all departments of labor and commerce; to assist the unfortunate and relieve the distressed; to encourage and protect the professional man, laborer, artisan, tradesman, farmer, and all engaged in industrial pursuits.

C. R.—Past Chief Ranger, what do the principles of our Order teach us?

P.C.R.—We are taught by the principles of the Order to be sober, upright and conscientious, willing to help, ready to relieve, and obedient to the laws of our country. In our domestic relations we are taught as husbands, to be affectionate and trustful; as fathers, regardful of the moral and material well-being of our children and dependents; as sons, to be dutiful and exemplary; as friends, to be steadfast and

true. Every Court, from the very nature of our Constitution and Laws, and by reason of the objects, duties and responsibilities which they impose upon the membership, should promote the moral, social and intellectual welfare of those connected with the Order. To carry out more efficiently the aims of our noble Order, all good men are invited to unite together as brethren in the Independent Order of Foresters.

**Orator.**—God speed the heavenly mission of our noble Order; onward be its progress, until misfortune has ceased to exist and there shall be no more want to relieve, and "sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

**Brethren.**—So mote it be.

**C. R.**—Brethren, let us all emulate the heroes of humanity who have gone before us; and by self-denying devotion to our Order, by conscientious uprightness in all our dealings, and by ever keeping in mind that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world," strive to promote the honor and prosperity of our noble Order—the Independent Order of Foresters.

**Brethren.**—So mote it be.

(The oration, music, and such other exercises as the Court may have determined upon will now follow.)

● ● ●

**C. R.**—We will now conclude this Anniversary service by singing the Foresters' Anthem.

## No. 12. FORESTERS' ANTHEM.

[RED, WHITE AND BLUE.

1. Our Order from ocean to ocean, A blessing to good and to
2 Our banner from ocean to ocean, Un-furl o'er the good and the

true, We'll pledge it our warm-est de - vo-tion, To
true, We'll pledge it our warm-est de - vo-tion, We'll

For - es-try we'll ev - er prove true; When disease, dire, afflicts a poor
stand by our colors so true; Firmly stand! bravely stand by our

member Our Order hath pow'r to cheer and bless, We'll
banner, To the broth-er-hood ev - er prove true, Ev - er

then rally round one an-oth-er, Willing hands to relieve sore distress.
ready to relieve a needy member, 'Neath our glorious red white and blue.

Our Or-der from ocean to ocean, A blessing to good and to
Three cheers for the red white and blue, Three cheers for the red white and

true, We'll pledge it our warmest devotion, Three cheers for the red white and blue
blue, Ever ready to relieve a needy member 'Neath our glorious red, white and blue

**C. R.**—The Orator will now close with the Benediction.

## BENEDICTION.

**Orator.**—To God, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, be ascribed all the glory, might, majesty and dominion; and may the blessing of God, our Heavenly Father, be with us all now and evermore. Amen.

# BURIAL SERVICE.

(Whenever the Supreme officers are present they shall officiate, and in their absence the officers present who are next highest in rank shall conduct the ceremony as acting Supreme officers. There shall be a Chief Marshal and Orator appointed by the senior officer present, and Assistant Marshals by the C.R. of each of the Courts taking part—one Assistant Marshal for each Court. The Court Regalia, or emblems, properly draped with crape, shall be worn, except when the weather is unfavorable, or likely to be, in which case the brethren will wear black crape around the left arm fastened by a narrow piece of white crape or ribbon; a small bow of black and white crape, into which a sprig of evergreen is fastened, is to be worn on the regalia, or when the regalia is not used then the bow must be worn on the left breast; the Supreme or High Marshal, or the Chief Marshal, in addition to that which each member wears, shall wear a sash of black and white crape, about four inches wide when joined, passing over the left shoulder, and shall carry a white baton trimmed with white and black crape; the Assistant Marshals shall wear sashes of black crape only, also over the left shoulder, and shall carry a white baton trimmed with black crape; the pall-bearers shall wear heavy white crape sashes trimmed with black, and black gloves; the officers and the members shall wear white gloves. The officers and members will form in procession two abreast, being careful to observe that there is from six to ten feet of space between themselves and the next two in front, and will leave the Court room to proceed to the house in the following order:)

## THE PROCESSION.

(1) The Supreme, or High, or Chief Marshal, six to ten feet in advance.

(2) The officiating Orator and Court Physician.

(3) The members of the Order.

(4) The officers of Courts according to rank.

(5) The officers of the mourning Court.

(6) The Supreme or High officers, according to rank, the highest rank being in the rear.

(On arriving at the house they will halt, open out and reverse.)

## Ceremony at the House.

(If desired, the following ceremony may be used at the house. If thought best the two ceremonies may both be used at the grave.)

**S. Orator.**—Let us pray.

### PRAYER.

Great and Merciful Sovereign of the Universe, in whom we live and move and have our being, and before whom all must hereafter appear and render an account of the deeds done in the body, we earnestly beseech Thee to deeply impress upon our minds the solemnity of this hour. And, O Merciful God, Thou who art the father of the widow and the orphans, we beseech Thee to look down in pity and love upon the stricken mourners ; sustain and comfort them in this the hour of their sore affliction ; and finally, by Thy infinite mercy, gather them all home into Thy everlasting kingdom.

**The Members.**—Amen.

(The following ode may then be sung at the discretion of the S.C.R.)

No. 13.

# Rest, Weary Heart.

1. Rest, weary heart, (From all thy silent griefs and) se - cret pain, (Thy profitless regrets and)
2. Rest, weary head, (Lie down to slumber in the) peace - ful tomb, (Light from above has broken)
3. Rest, spirit free, (In the green pastures of the) heav'nly shore, (Where sin and sorrow can ap -)

long - ings vain; Wis - dom and love have or - dered all the past.
thro' its gloom; Here, in the place where once the Sa-viour lay,
proach no more; With all the flock by Christ the Shepherd fed,

All shall be bless-ed -ness and light at last; Cast off the
Where He shall wake thee on a fu - ture day, Like a tired
Be - side the stream of life e - - ter - - nal led; For ev - er

cares that have so long op - pressed, Rest, sweet - ly rest,
child up - on its mo - ther's breast, Rest. sweet - ly rest.
with thy God and Sa-viour blest, Rest sweet - ly rest.

**S. C. R.**—Brethren, in the midst of life we are in death. We live but to see those we love pass away into the silent tomb.

**S. Orator.**—"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

**P. S. C. R.**—Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

**The Members.**—Amen.

**S. C. R.**—"What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Man walketh in a vain shadow; he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them. Man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?"

**S. Orator.**—"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

**P. S. C. R.**—"The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

**The Members.**—Amen.

**S. C. R.**—"Behold, Thou hast made my days as it were a span long: and my age is even as nothing in respect of Thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity."

**S. Orator.**—" I heard a voice from Heaven, saying unto me, Write, from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labors.

**P. S. C. R.**—Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

**S. C. R.**—" Thou hast set our misdeeds before Thee; and our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance. For when Thou art angry all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told."

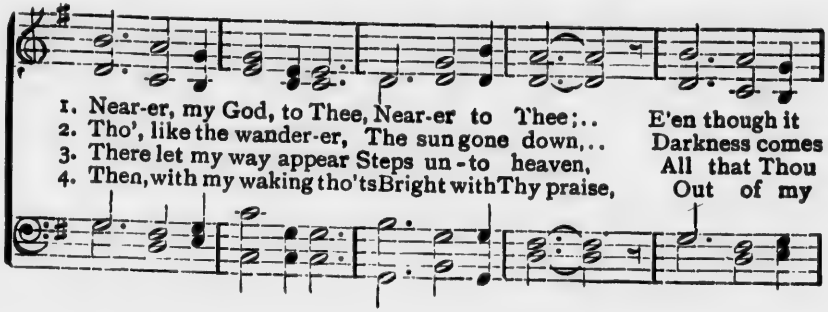
**S. Orator.**—"Behold, I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, (for the trumpet shall sound,) and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting! O grave, where is thy victory!"

**P. S. C. R.**—"The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

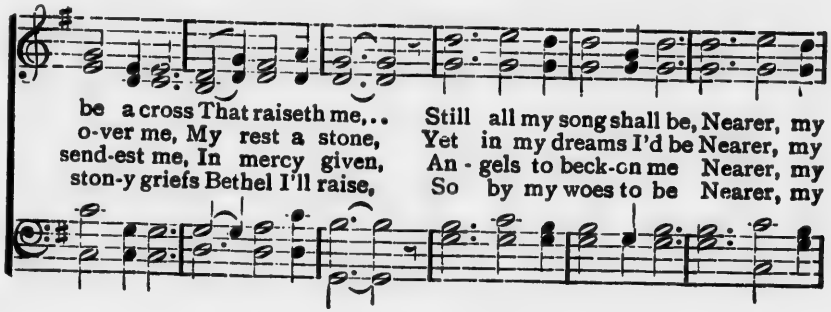
**The Members.**—Amen.

(The following ode may be sung at the discretion of the S.C.R.)

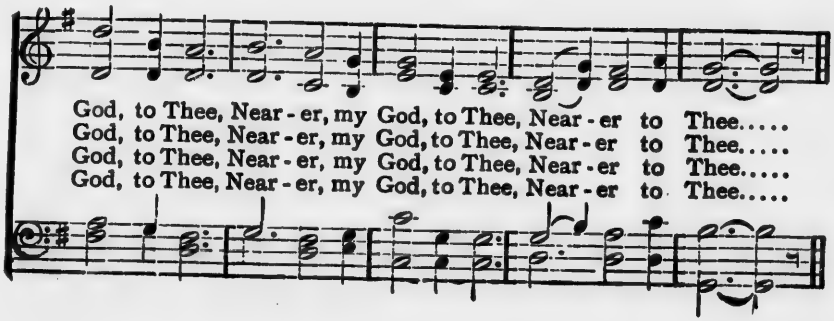
## No. 14. Nearer, my God, to Thee.



1. Near-er, my God, to Thee, Near-er to Thee;.. E'en though it
2. Tho', like the wander-er, The sun gone down,.. Darkness comes
3. There let my way appear Steps un-to heaven, All that Thou
4. Then, with my waking tho'ts Bright with Thy praise, Out of my



be a cross That raiseth me,.. Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my
o-ver me, My rest a stone, Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my
send-est me, In mercy given, An-gels to beck-on me Nearer, my
ston-y griefs Bethel I'll raise, So by my woes to be Nearer, my



God, to Thee, Near-er, my God, to Thee, Near-er to Thee.....
God, to Thee, Near-er, my God, to Thee, Near-er to Thee.....
God, to Thee, Near-er, my God, to Thee, Near-er to Thee.....
God, to Thee, Near-er, my God, to Thee, Near-er to Thee.....

## Ceremony at the Grave.

(On leaving the house the procession will precede the coffin, and will be in the same order as when leaving the hall. On arriving at the gate of the cemetery the brethren will halt, open out, uncover their heads, allowing the corpse and relations and friends to pass through, after which the brethren will *reverse* and pass on, forming a circle around the grave, the S.C.R. being at the head of the grave with the S. Orator on his right and the P. S. C. R. on his left within the circle. After the usual religious ceremonies are performed, the S. C. R. or acting S. C. R., who stands at the head of the grave, will proceed as follows:)

**S. C. R.**—We are assembled upon this solemn and mournful occasion, in obedience to the dictates of duty, and in conformity to the expressed wishes of our deceased brother, to perform the last sad rites which the living may render to the dead, by depositing the mortal remains of our late brother in their final resting place, where all ranks are levelled, and all distinctions swept away.

Our Father in Heaven, "who doeth all things well," having, in His infinite wisdom, summoned our brother from the cares and anxieties of this life, we desire humbly to bow in submission, and pray for grace to say "Thy will be done."

No more shall we gaze on the genial smile of our worthy brother, nor clasp his hand of welcome; no more respond to his fraternal signal, nor behold him in the happy circle formed in Liberty, Benevolence and Concord. The throbbing heart that beat responsive to the claims of humanity, the noble impulses that inspired his energies, and the earnest tones that pleaded so fervently for the principles of our noble Order, all are hushed and silent for ever.

May these mortal remains remind us of our own approaching end, and serve to stimulate us to greater works of charity and brotherly love. May we have strength from on High to so regulate our conduct, that, guided by the dictates of unerring wisdom, we may enjoy in the latter period of our earthly existence, that tranquillity which flows from an unsullied conscience, even "the peace of God which passeth all understanding."

**Brethren.**—So mote it be.

**S. C. R.**—This evergreen is symbolical of the immortality of the soul, and teaches us not to mourn for the dead as they who are without hope.

(As the above words are pronounced, the S.C.R. or Acting S.C.R., will drop the evergreen into the grave, and lead in procession around the grave, going to his right and then wheeling to the left outside of the circle. The brother standing immediately to the left of the S.C.R. will follow, and the rest passing around after the others, and as each passes the head of the grave he deposits his sprig of evergreen and passes on around the grave till all have dropped the evergreen into the grave, then each resumes his place in the circle around the grave; this done, the brethren will form the "Circle of Concord," which is done by each crossing his arms in front and linking his right hand with his left neighbor's left hand, and his left hand with his right neighbor's right hand, then elevating the hands so linked three times; after which the procession will be reformed in the same order as when leaving the Court Room.)

**S. C. R.**—Let the "Circle of Concord" be formed.

# THE CEREMONY

## OF

# LAYING A CORNER STONE.

(The Corner Stone whenever practicable should be laid in the north-east angle of the building. The masonry should be built up to the level on which the Corner Stone is to be laid. A cavity should be made in the stone which is intended to be placed immediately *under* the Corner Stone, say about 6 inches by 12 inches, by 6 inches deep, and a tin box made to fit into such cavity. The coins of the country, previously placed in a small bottle and hermetically sealed, together with the records and documents intended to be placed under the Corner Stone, should be placed in the tin box by the architect or superintendent of works, as they are enumerated by the Supreme Secretary from the Tablet. After which the tin box is likewise hermetically sealed, and then handed to the Supreme Secretary, who places the same in the cavity of the stone, after which the ceremony proceeds as laid down in the Ritual. The Supreme Chief Ranger or the officer present who is next highest in rank, shall perform the ceremony of laying the Corner Stone. The Supreme Chief Ranger or ranking officer may, however, delegate his authority to some Distinguished Personage selected for that purpose. The brethren shall assemble at the Court Room, or some other place convenient to the proposed new building, and march in procession, headed by the officers and members of the Court under whose auspices the ceremony is to be performed; next, the members; next, the officers according to rank, the seniors being in the rear; then the Supreme Chief Ranger and the associate Supreme Officers. The procession, upon reaching the place where the Corner Stone is to be laid, will halt, open ranks and reverse. The ceremony will then proceed as under :)

**S. C. R.**—The Supreme Secretary will read the Tablet, and see that the Archives are properly placed within the foundation of the —— to be erected upon these grounds.

(The Supreme Secretary will then read from a manuscript called "Tablet," such descriptions of the building as may have been prepared, together with an enumeration of the articles called "Archives" as may have been determined to place within the foundation of the building.

When the Supreme Secretary begins to enumerate the "Archives," he will give the Architect time to place each article in the box. The Architect will repeat the name of each article after the Supreme Secretary and place it within the box. The Architect will then have the box securely soldered and then hand it to the Supreme Secretary, who then places it in the proper place in the foundation wall, and reports as follows :)

**S. S.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, the Archives have been properly placed within the foundations of the —— to be erected upon these grounds.

**S. C. R.**—Before we proceed to lay the Corner Stone let us invoke the blessing of Heaven upon what we are about to do.

**S. Orator.**—Protect us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee we may Glorify Thy Holy Name. Grant, O Merciful Father, that this —— to be erected upon these grounds may remain as an enduring monument of Thy goodness and mercy to mankind, and that charity and good-will may go out from its walls to bless humanity and magnify Thy Holy name, now and evermore. Amen.

**Officers and Members.**—So mote it be.

**S. Orator.**—Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven, give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Officers and Members.**—So mote it be.

**S. C. R.**—Let the Clerk of the Works attend to the mortar, to the end that the Corner Stone may be properly laid.

(The Clerk of the Works will then spread the required mortar on the Stone, after which the S. S. will hand the Trowel to the S. C. R., who will give the finishing touches to the mortar and then the Corner Stone will be lowered to its place. The S.S. will next hand the Mallet to the S.C.R., who will then give three taps with it upon the Corner Stone and say :)

**S. C. R.**—In the name of the Independent Order of Foresters, I hereby lay the Corner Stone of the ——.

(The Architect or Superintendent of Works will then hand the Square to the P.S.C.R., who will try the Corner Stone with it, and then the Architect or Superintendent of Works will receive from the P.S.C.R. the Square and hand to him the Level, who will place it on the Corner Stone for a moment and hand it back to the Architect or Superintendent of Works. The Architect or Superintendent of Works will next hand the Plummet to the P. S. C. R., who will likewise try the Stone with it and return it to the Architect, and then say :)

**P. S. C. R.**—I proclaim this Corner Stone well and truly laid by —— (giving title in full).

(If a Distinguished Personage has been chosen to lay the Corner Stone, the ceremony will be altered as follows: When the S. C. R. receives the Trowel from the S.S. he will say as follows :)

**S. C. R.**—In the name of the Independent Order of Foresters, I ask that ——— will do us the honor of performing the ceremony of laying the Corner Stone.

(The S.C.R. will then hand the Trowel to the Distinguished Personage, who will therewith give the finishing touches to the mortar; so also when the S.S. hands the Mallet to the S.C.R., that officer will likewise pass the same to the Distinguished Personage, who will give the required three taps upon the Corner Stone, immediately after saying as follows :)

• • •

**Distinguished Personage.**—In the name of the Independent Order of Foresters I hereby lay the Corner Stone of the ———.

(The Ceremony will then proceed, as already laid down, with the exception that when the P.S.C.R. has tried the Corner Stone with the Square, Level and Plummet, he will report to the S.C.R., who will then make the proclamation, as follows :)

**P.S.C.R.**—Supreme Chief Ranger, I find the Corner Stone well and truly laid.

**S.C.R.**—I proclaim the Corner Stone of the——— well and truly laid by ———.

Cheers for the Queen, or President, or other ruler of the country in which the ceremony is performed, and cheers for the Order, followed by music from the band.

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